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The RMPAGE

Wyoming Chapter FNAWS

SUMMER 2000



Photo by Fred Goetz, Wheatland, Wyoming

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Jim Mountain/North Fork prescribed burning

WY-FNAWS has helped fund a prescribed burn program on the North Fork of the Shoshone River, west of Cody. Located in Hunt Area 2, burns in the Jim Mountain/ Signal Peak area were first mapped in 1983 by Kevin Hurley, based on his graduate work in the Trout Peak herd. Conifer encroachment (mainly juniper and limber pine) has reduced forage quantity and quality for 175-200 wintering bighorn sheep; prescribed burns will reduce shrub and tree canopy, enhance detection of predators, and increase forage production and forage quality. Approximately 2,000 acres are scheduled to be burned in this project. On April 21, 2000, over 400 acres were burned near Signal Peak. The prescribed burn moratorium implemented in the wake of the Cerro Grande (Los Alamos) fire in New Mexico temporarily halted burning efforts on the North Fork; an August or September 2000 startup is anticipated.



Photo by Fred Goetz



Jack Atcheson, Jr.

Keith Atcheson

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Cougars Kill Sheep

reprinted from "NEW MEXICO WILDLIFE" Fall 1999, with permission of Luke Shelby, Public Affairs, New Mexico Dept. of Game and Fish

If the scales of justice are blind, the balance of nature is heartless.

We call it predation, and it strums deep, although often different, chords within our beings. There are some who automatically side with the predators, steadfastly defending their right to a meal; others defend the prey, displeased, when the killing done by wolves, foxes or mountain lions conflicts with humans' management goals.

The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish now is ensnared in this dilemma of predation. For years desert bighorn sheep, a state endangered species, have suffered great losses at the paws of cougars, a protected game species. The agency is responsible for the continued existence of both lions and bighorn sheep, so walking away from the problem is not an option.

There is little question that mountain lions do kill and eat bighorn sheep. Cougar predation has been documented as the greatest source of mortality for some bighorn herds in Arizona, and it's considered a major reason California's Sierra Nevada and Peninsular bighorn now are listed on the federal endangered species list. Periodically, it's been a problem in New Mexico. The cats were viewed as a threat to attempts to restore desert bighorn sheep in the early 1980s, and in the 1990s that view has resurfaced.

New Mexico's bighorn biologists have documented a heavy loss of the endangered desert bighorn. The 1995 statewide population of 232, despite being augmented with 45 sheep from the Department's Red Rock Wildlife Area in November of 1997, declined to only 220 by late 1998. Following a 10-year study of mountain lions on the White Sands Missile Range, the herd on the San Andres Mountains declined to a single animal. Despite lambs being born every year, there has been a decline in New Mexico's desert bighorn populations.

Biologists Bill Dunn, New Mexico Game and Fish, and Dr. Eric Rominger, under contract to Game and Fish, have tracked radio-collared adult bighorn sheep since 1995. They have documented cougars killing at least 40 radio-collared bighorn sheep, including 18 of 21 radio-collared desert bighorn sheep that died in the Fra Cristobal Mountains; 10 of 14 radio-collared desert bighorn sheep that died in the Ladron Mountains; eight of nine radiocollared sheep that died in the Peloncillo Mountains since that release of November 1997, and at least six of nine radiocollared sheep that died in the San Andres were killed by cougars.

This high level of predation was experienced almost two decades ago, too. Between 1980 to 1982, lions killed seven radio-collared bighorn sheep in the San Andres Mountains, and 10 of 32 sheep released in the Big Hatchet Mountains. Lions also killed some in the Peloncillos. To protect desert bighorn herds in the early 1980s, 39 lions were killed in the San Andres, 15 in the Peloncillo Mountains and four in the Big Hatchets.

Cougars are survivors

In this century, cougars have survived bounties, predicides and the same type of persecution that eliminated wolves and grizzly bears from the Southwest. Attitudes toward cougars, however, have changed significantly. In 1971 the Legislature made cougars a game animal. Prior to that, they had no closed season and could be hunted as if they were vermin. Any cougar was fair game, including females with kittens. Not even a license was required to kill

Determining the cougars' response to the protection, however, is very difficult because there is little hard data by which to judge what happened, said Chuck Hayes, bear and cougar biologist for Game and Fish. Although cougar sightings in cities like Farmington, Las Cruces, Raton and in the foothills of Albuquerque seem to be more common today than they were prior to 1971, it's unknown if that is being caused by an increase in cougars or the expansion of cities into cougar habitat. Today's best statewide cougar population estimate is 2,150, plus or minus 14 percent, Hayes said. The estimate is based on cougar densities, determined by the 10-year study of the cats on White Sands Missile Range, multiplied by 29,163 square miles of suitable habitat.

The cougar study on the missile range documented the predators' heavy dependence on mule deer as prey. The researchers reported that mule deer accounted for 91 percent of the cougars' prey, and that mule deer fawns comprised 107, or 22 percent, of the 479 deer killed by the cats.

Researchers also found a correlation between growing-season precipitation and cougar prey selection. The cats switched from fawns to adult deer as drought progressed during the last three years of the cougar study. During that drought, cougars became the major cause of death for mule deer and exacerbated the drought-related deer decline on the range. Unfortunately, the study ended before the cougars' full response to the crash in deer was documented. Hayes has received reports that cougar numbers have declined on White Sands, but there is no data to confirm it. Nor do we know the full extent of the crash in the deer population, because deer density was not studied. It was, after all, a cougar study.

We do know, however, that after the study concluded, desert bighorn sheep, for all practical purposes, became extinct on the San Andres Mountains. Today only a single ewe is found there, and mountain lions killed at least six of the last 10 radio-collared desert bighorn in the San Andres Mountains. A similar rate of predation is expected to have occurred on the uncollared portion of the bighorn herd.

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12/2000 12/2000 307-856-9590 **Fred Thomas** 12/2001 Box 346, Meeteetse, WY 82433 307-868-2595

EDITOR'S NOTES

As you receive this summer issue of the RAMPAGE I realize many of you are right now preparing for your sheep hunt. On behalf of all of the WY chapter officers and directors we wish you a most enjoyable and successful hunt, and look forward to you sending me your hunt report.

We are updating our membership files, and those of you whose membership has expired will find a postage paid envelope at the center of the magazine, plus the address label highlighted, and as we do not want to loose any of you, please use this to send in your check for annual, 3 year, or life membership dues. Thanks in advance for that.

As you can see we are attracting new advertisers and I urge you to support these folks in every way possible. Your support will help to continue to improve our magazine.

Officers and directors Dave Luzmoor, Lynn Stewart, and Fred Thomas were in Alaska spring brown bear hunting and I am happy to say all were successful. Fred and Lynn hunted together and Dave was with another outfitter just north of them, all on the peninsular.

I am sure all of you who belong to the Wyoming Chapter of The Foundation for North American Wild Sheep know we are one of the several affiliate chapters of National FNAWS. We have run into some confusion here in Wyoming with the national headquarters located in Cody, so when you speak to friends who are not aware of the difference, please explain, and invite their participation in our chapter.

With temperatures in the 100's all over the state this summer it may be difficult to think ahead to December, but mark your calendar for 15,16, and 17 December 2000 for our annual meeting, banquet, and auction fundraiser to be held in Rock Springs at the Holiday Inn, 307-382-9200.

It promises to be another fun filled weekend, and in some of the following pages you will find listed many of the items we have already obtained for the fundraiser.

We anticipate the raffle tickets for the Polaris ATV, cash, and rifles, you will find advertised in this issue will sell out quickly, as many folks have asked about it even before the tickets are printed, so get in touch with one of the officers or directors for your opportunity to win!

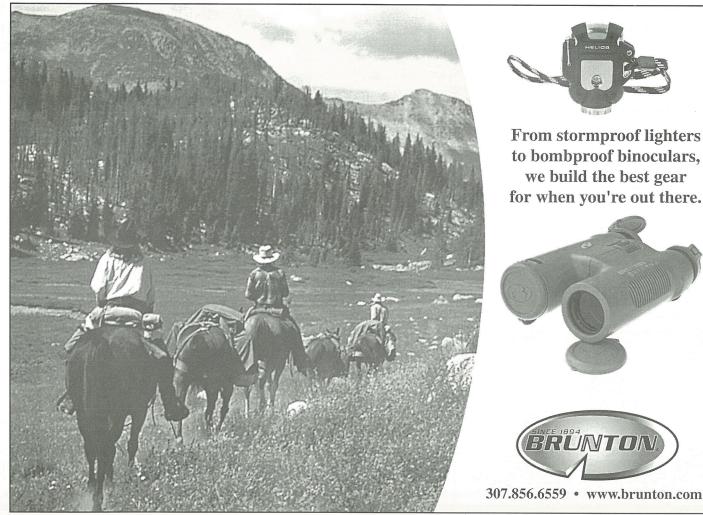
My personal thanks to all of you who have indicated your enjoyment of the new format of our news magazine, I appreciate it. Most of it is your interest in participating, so a pat on the back to You!!

Naved B Connor

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

2000 Wyoming Hunting & Fishing Heritage EXPO

For the third year, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department will be hosting a Hunting and Fishing EXPO at the Events Center in Casper; this year's EXPO is scheduled for September 8-10. A four-way booth will be again shared by WY-FNAWS, national FNAWS, the National Bighorn Sheep Interpretive Center from Dubois, and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department's Bighorn Sheep Working Group. If WY-FNAWS members are interested in volunteering some time to help at a great event, please contact a WY-FNAWS board member. In addition to exhibits and displays, numerous hands-on activities, seminars, and other fun events are planned. Friday (September 8, 2000) is again focused on youth events and activities; last year, over 4,000 Wyoming school kids experienced a variety of outdoor and hunting/fishing related activities.



HUNT REPORTS

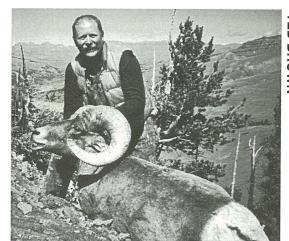
sheep hunt.

Ted hunted Area 5 with three of his close friends. After a 5½ hour hike straight up the mountain, Ted spotted this ram laying down below a rock. After regaining his composure, he made a clean shot at 250 yards with his Grand Slam 7 mm. It's a beauty—14" at the base and 33" curl.

ough terrain and sunny weather greeted TED BROWN of Casper on his

"Then the work started," he writes. After two hours of caping and deboning, they headed down the mountain and reached camp 3½ hours later.

Ted says he couldn't have done it without his three good friends...and it was a once-in-a-lifetime hunt.



am going to relate **BRIAN BLAKEMAN'S** story from the end back to beginning. Brian hails from Sheridan and closed his story by saying "After unseasonably hot weather, two days sick in spike camp, a very poorly timed prescribed burn, and a pack horse which spooked and fell over a cliff, my dream of a ram trophy was now fulfilled." Sounds memorable to me Brian!

It all began when Brian called his dad to brag about drawing a sheep tag for area 3 only to find his dad had drawn also. Naturally they planned the hunt together and departed on 10 Sep for the trail head for a 9 day stay. The following morning half a dozen rams were spotted, but in a distant canyon, which would require a 6 hour ride, so they decided to continue to glass and hunt where they were. The next morning found Brian too sick to move from the tent and his dad did not venture far from camp. When health improved they moved camp across Scorio to the location the 6 rams were spotted, but due to extreme rising temperatures the rams had disappeared. On the ride back to camp they noticed smoke and later found out a prescribed burn was taking place right in the middle of sheep season! Needless to say the rest of the week was a bust. Work called and Brian could not get back to the mountains for another week, and when he did return the pack horse spooked on the way to camp and was lost over a cliff! He arrived back home at 3 in the morning, dejected, and ready to call it a season, but it seems as though all hunters have someone above looking out for us when we choose a wife, and as is the case many times over, Brian's wife rallied to the cause. She and his father found someone to return to the mountain and retrieve his supplies, and as his dad could not get away, brother Loren volunteered to continue the hunt with Brian. On the 4th day of the renewed hunt, 6 rams were spotted in the distance, and after a long hike, they

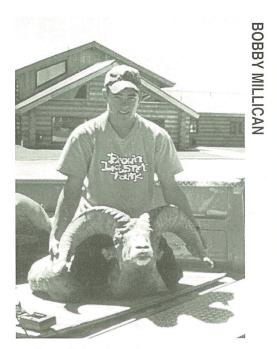


could not be located. As snow was beginning to fall they started on the trail back to camp, when they noticed they were following fresh grizzly tracks, so they began talking and making some noise as a precautionary measure. When the tracks cut up to the side, Brian followed them with his eyes and there not 100 yards away was his ram! Now you know the rest of the story!

Due to family illness Brian's dad was unable to fill his sheep tag, but they had a great first week together.

Brian also wants to thank his loving wife, helpful dad, brother, Diana Dye for her horses and support, and Malcom Traylor for packing him in and out.

TED BROWN

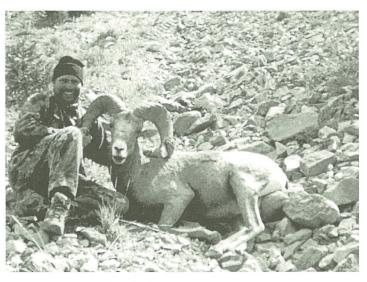


OBBY MILLICAN of Cora, hunted area 23 for 7 days before taking this ram. Bob was self guided and he said it was really "rough and steep" in the terrain he was hunting. He shot his ram at 7 AM and it took the remainder of the day to pack out, as he was on foot. I did not receive any specifics regarding the score of Bob's ram, but it looks wide with heavy bases, certainly a trophy any of us would be proud of!

AUL FRAUENDIENST says "My sheep hunt ranks as the best hunting experience I have ever had." Paul is from Cheyenne and hunted in area 7 with one brother, Jim, and father-in-law Dale.

They hunted on their own and backpacked all gear and food about 10 miles to their camping site. Opening day began with breakfast before dawn and glassing at first light. As Jim and Dale had spotted a nice ram the day before they concentrated their efforts in the same area, and it paid dividends when 2 more rams showed up. Paul and Jim climbed from 6 to 11 AM toward the sheep, and although they tried to be quiet, it was impossible not to dislodge rocks from the shale slides they had to cross. Upon reaching their goal the first observation proved disappointing, and they figured the noisy assent caused by the falling rocks must have scared all the sheep off. Paul was disgusted and told Jim to watch one side of the avalanche shoot while he crawled up the other. About 10 minutes later Jim got Paul's attention and was making animated signs of a full curl and pointing back in the direction from which he had been. Paul crept up hill and across the patch of trees he was in and the ram was only 20 yards away! A moment of hesitation to be sure it was the larger of the 2 rams, and Paul laid claim to his trophy. "He was much

more of an animal than I ever imagined I'd be fortunate enough to take." It took 2 days to pack back out, and a well deserved hotel room and steaks in Jackson were the reward.



PAUL

FRAUENDIENS

WYOMING CHAPTER FNAWS



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3rd Annual Dalmatian Toadflax "Weed-Pull"



Horseback spray unit purchased by WY-FNAWS for Chemical Control of Toadflax, by Shoshone National Forest

WY-FNAWS helped sponsor the 3rd Annual Dalmatian Toadflax "Weed-Pull" on June 17, 2000 on the upper South Fork of the Shoshone River, above Cody. Dalmatian toadflax, a noxious weed, has taken over on 2,000+ acres on the upper South Fork, much of it crucial winter range for bighorn sheep. As part of an integrated weed management program, WY-FNAWS has donated to the purchase of biological control agents, bought horsepack spray units for the Shoshone NF to use in their chemical control efforts. and helped sponsor the annual weed pull, more an educational event about noxious weeds than a significant mechanical control option. The first weed pull in 1998 drew 80 participants, there were 110 folks in 1999, but only 50 showed for the 2000 event. For the third year in a row, WY-FNAWS put on a BBQ for all participants.



Jim, Lynn, and Cole in action at the BBQ

Gun control laws — who does it control and why?

The following was sent to me by a friend and was written by Paul Harvey and I though you would be interested. It kind of makes you wonder who really wants gun control and for what reason. After I read the article I realized how much we could really lose if we lost our rights to own guns.

History of gun control by Paul Harvey:

Are you considering backing gun control laws? Do you think that because you may not own a gun, the rights guaranteed by the Second Amendment don't matter?

CONSIDER; In 1929 the Soviet Union established gun control. From 1929 to 1953, approximately 20 million dissidents, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.

In 1911, Turkey established gun control. From 1915-1917, 1.5 million Armenians, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated. Germany established gun control in 1938 and from 1939 to 1945, 13 million Jews, gypsies, homosexuals, the mentally ill, and others, who were unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.

China established gun control in 1935. From 1948 to 1952, 20 million political dissidents, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.

Guatemala established gun control in 1964. From 1964 to 1981, 100,000 Mayan Indians, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.

Uganda established gun control in 1970. From 1971 to 1979, 300,000 Christians, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.

Cambodia established gun control in 1956. From 1975 to 1977, one million "educated" people, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.

That places total victims who lost their lives because of gun control at approximately 56 million in the last century. Since we should learn from the mistakes of history, the next time someone talks in favor of gun control, find out which group of citizens they wish to have exterminated. It has now been 12 months since gun owners in Australia.

It has now been 12 months since gun owners in Australia were forced to surrender 640,381 personal firearms to be destroyed, a program costing the government more than \$500 million dollars. The results Australia-wide: homicides are up 3.2 percent, assaults are up 8 percent and armed robberies are up 44 percent. In that country's state of Victoria, homicides with firearms are up 300 percent. Over the previous 25 years, figures show a steady decrease in armed robberies and Australian politicians are on the spot and at a loss to explain how no improvement in "safety" has been observed after such monumental effort and expense was successfully expended in "ridding society of guns."

It's time to state it plainly: Guns in the hands of honest citizens save lives and property and, yes; gun-control laws only affect the law-abiding citizens. Take action before it's too late, write or call your delegation.

reprinted from the Wyoming Livestock Roundup



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Domestic Sheep/ **Bighorn Sheep** Interaction Meetings

To date, WY-FNAWS has participated in a series of meetings to discuss actual and potential interaction between domestic and wild sheep. Agencies, organizations, and entities involved in these discussions thus far include the office of the Governor, Office of Federal Land Policy, Greater Yellowstone Coalition, U.S. Forest Service, Wyoming Game and Fish Commission and Department, Wyoming Stock Growers Association, Wyoming Wool Growers Association, Bureau of Land Management, American Sheep Industry Association, Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation, numerous domestic sheep and cattle permittees on federal lands, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wyoming Wildlife Federation, Wyoming Congressional delegation representatives, USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services, County Commissioners, Wyoming Department of Agriculture, national FNAWS, The Nature Conservancy, various media representatives, and other interested parties. The focus of this series of meetings is to build relationships among diverse groups, determine specific points of agreement (while recognizing but not dwelling on points of contention), identify potential cooperative efforts to enhance both the domestic sheep industry and Wyoming's bighorn sheep herds, and bring many "Wyoming" viewpoints together to develop "Wyoming" solutions.

ROY PETROWICZ

CYNTHIA PETROWICZ

Lamplighter Lodge

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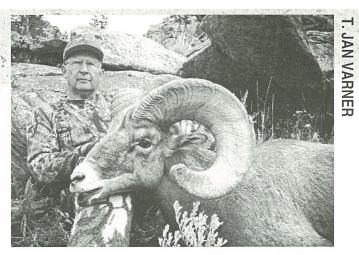
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USAN BLUEMEL of Lyman hunted with husband, Dick, son Rusty, and good friend Clinton Walker who also had a permit in their area 4. Yes, Susan and friend Clinton got their rams after 5 days of hard hunting. Just as they were about to call it a day Rusty spotted 4 nice rams quite some distance off. A horse back ride and about 21/2 hour hike, and the largest two rams fell to the two shots of the hunters. Susan and her family hunted on their own as they are very familiar with the area and in her own words, "It adds a special element that my husband and I hunt together. It is always more exciting when you can share the special events in your life with those you love! I had such a terrific experience on my sheep hunt, it's hard to tell in words." (Clinton, where is your story, and where are the photos!!!)

The hunt as related to me by Susan sounded interesting to say the least; unseasonably warm in the beginning, then 3 days of snow, and an absolutely beautiful day when the rams were shot. She said they saw 5 enormous bucks, 3 big bull elk, 2 equally large moose, and grizzly and black bear sign every day. Congratulations to you all, you deserve it.





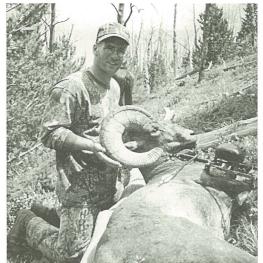
ictor, Montana resident T. JAN VARNER had a successful hunt in Area 19, guided by Myron, Karma and Mike Wakkuri. They saw a variety of wildlife, including elk, deer and over 50 sheep. While scouting, they spotted four

This ram green-scored 176 6/8. Jan states that it was the best hunt he's ever undertaken and describes the Wakkuris as "outstanding hunters and people."



OBBY ROBINSON of Dardanelle, Arkansas hunted with Mark Condict, and guide Jack Risner, Grand Slam Outfitters, near Needle Mountain in area 4 to reach step two of his grand slam goal. He indicated everything was fabulous, including the weather, to make his hunt most enjoyable. I understand Robby has also taken a dall and has booked both stone and desert, so is well on his way to the coveted slam. Best wishes from the Wyoming Chapter Robby, we wish vou success.

ROBBY ROBINSON



MIKE THOMPSON

n spite of being sick for the first three days of his hunt, MIKE THOMPSON of Riverton had a terrific time in excellent country with wonderful friends while taking the trophy of a lifetime.

Mike took this ram on a self-guided hunt with friends Perry Wyant and Greg Morse on Whiskey Mountain in Area 10. The official Pope and Young score was 167 4/8, the largest ram to ever be taken in Wyoming with a bow.

"My friends made this hunt possible," Mike writes. "I was really sick...and without them I could never have stayed up there." He also thanks outfitter and friend Fritz Meyer for his hints and expertise on hunting Area 10.



BRAD ROOD

fter drawing his sheep tag on May 1st, Powell resident **BRAD ROOD** spent every three-day weekend he had glassing for sheep in Area 3. He had his eye on a particular ram—yes, the one in the picture—three days before the season opened. With his hunting partner and brother Darrell, he shot his trophy at 9 a.m. on opening morning.

Brad says he's "very pleased with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department for great management."

wo Wyoming bighorn rams in one day! JOHN SOMPLE, M.D., of Bath, Ohio really had an interesting hunt in area 3 with Mike Wakkuri, of Elk Mountain Outfitters. They packed in several days prior to the hunt wearing only tee shirts, but more clothing was added as they gained elevation. They scouted the mountains and basins near base camp and spotted several elk, ewes, lambs and 17 rams. One was a beauty with heavy bases and a full curl. John continues, "On opening morning we spotted our ram with several others feeding across the mountainside from our glassing location. After a hike of several miles through timber and rock strewn trails we came to a dead end due to a 200 foot drop. The rams had bedded in some low-lying junipers. Our ram was lying down but visible at a range of 328 yards by the range finder. Debate ensued on whether to shoot or wait until the ram stood up. After making a rest I decided to try the shot with the ram bedded.

When my breathing settled and the sun went behind a cloud, eliminating glare in my scope, I squeezed the trigger on my 300 Win Mag ever so slowly. The ram col-



lapsed and rolled almost to the edge of a sheer drop. It took about 2 hours to circle to his position. My ram was beautiful! 37 inch full curl on one side and slightly broomed on the other. While taking pictures and quartering out the ram we spotted another band of rams, which were not visible from our glassing vantage point." This is where ram #2 comes into the picture. Outfitter Mike went back to camp to pick up Gary Jansen of Wisconsin who was starting his quest for a Grand Slam of sheep in ONE season. Well he got #1, and John was able to watch the entire stalk and see the largest ram fall even before the gunshot reached their ears!

"That night we had delicious sheep steaks on the grill and celebrated our success".

PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS

I don't know, maybe I am just getting older, but sure seems that each summer gets hotter. With the heat, comes though of the high country and hunting. Hope you were lucky in the draw and you have a great hunting season.

-We just concluded our third annual BYOH (bring your own horse) trip. This year's trip was a great success with nearly 20 members making the trek up the Targee and camping at Moose Lake nearly at the foot of the Grand Teton. The trip into sheep area six served as a reminder to those attending of the difficulties managing our bighorns poise and the crucial role winter habitat plays., This is tough winter country and it was agreed that a survey of the winter habitat should be taken this winter.

The third annual BYOH trip reaffirms that the exchange of views and ideas between members, Game and Fish, and Forest Service agency personnel is one of great importance.

Wishing you grand hunting adventures this fall.

Jim Collins

Teton Pack Trip

Some of our members enjoyed the BYOH (Bring Your Own Horse)
Trip as described by President Jim Collins in his article.







BIGHORN SHEEP HERD UNIT REVIEW

Targhee (Area 6) (BHS106)

Revision Date: 7/7/00

Estimated Population: 110 (post season 1999)

Population Objective: 125

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

Current WGFD Managers: Doug Brimeyer, Steve Kilpatrick, Doug Crawford

JCR Responsibility: Doug Brimeyer

Other Contacts: Patty Bates (USFS), Garvice Roby (WGFD-Ret.), Steve Cain (NPS)

Previous Studies: Steve Cain (NPS Reports)

N. Fitzsimmons & S. Buskirk (1992)

Mike Whitfield (1984)

Teton Range Bighorn Sheep Working Group Strategic Plan (1996)

Problems:

Habitat - Limited winter range, lack of fire

Domestic Sheep - Overlap with bighorn sheep range on 5 allotments; strategies being suggested to increase separation between domestic and wild sheep

Predation - documented; may be significant to small population

Genetics - Isolated population; probably most genetically at-risk herd in Wyoming

Disease - scabies and lungworm present in sheep killed by automobile collision

Migration - many of these sheep winter on rocky outcrops above timberline

Herbivore Competition -

Recreation/Development Encroachment - heli-skiing identified as recent disturbance factor; high level of backcountry recreation (backpacking, climbing, etc.)

Poor/Inconsistent Classification Data -

Hunting Related - variable harvest due to land status (Teton Park)

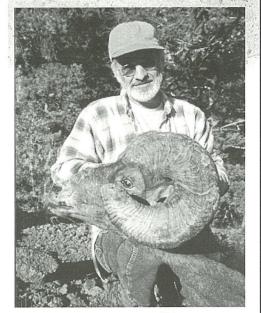
Other - high natural mortalities (S. Cain)

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department is advising hikers, hunters, fishers and golfers to take extra precautions and keep alert for bears while in the Bridger-Teton and Shoshone National Forests. They advise that people wear noise producing devices, such as little bells, on their clothing, to alert but not startle the bears unexpectedly.

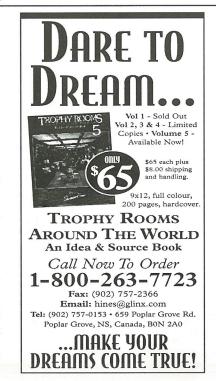
They also advise the carrying of pepper spray in case of an encounter with a bear. It is also a good idea to watch for fresh signs of bear activity.

People should recognize the difference between black bear and grizzly droppings. Black bear droppings are smaller and contain berries and possibly squirrel fur. Grizzly bear droppings have little bells in them and smell like pepper spray.

ROD MEYER



od MEYER of Cody sent me this report. "I was very fortunate to get my ram on the first day out. After 4 hours of glassing, and some good luck, due to John's sister spotting the ram, we were able to get into position for my unbelievable shot. My first day out after 14 years of applying for a permit, it was fantastic". John's sister referred to is outfitter John Porter, Morning Creek Outfitters, who guided Rod on his hunt. Rod also reported they had great weather and saw one sheep, all that was necessary! Nice ram Rod, and great photo.

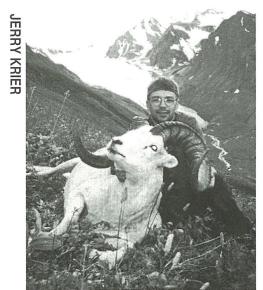


ERRY KRIER, Kalispell, MT. may perhaps be the envy of us all. Rocky Mountain big horn, Dall's sheep, and mountain goat, all in 1999, what a guy! Jerry wrote me a de tailed letter of his bighorn hunt with outfitter Don Schmalz of Cody, and I shall try to do justice in my condensation of Jerry's hunt. The hunt took place during October, with temperatures above average for that time of year. The hunt began and ended each day out of Schmalz's Red Pole Lodge in Cody, near the east entrance of Yellowstone Park. The snow and cool weather had disappeared by the 4th day of the hunt and Don said he had an ace up

his sleeve and the time to play it had arrived. They rode into a huge canyon, which resembled a miniature Grand Canyon, to glass the mountain peaks and the canyon itself, an area in which Schmalz had taken several rams in the past. Jerry spotted a sheep, "it was a ram, I could easily tell by the golden horns, which shone in the sunlight as the ram moved". As they worked their way down through the timber leading the horses, the decision



was made to continue on foot, as the wind and visibility were both factors to be considered on their approach.



Only 24 hours earlier they had spotted this same ram only to have it disappear. Now the reason was clear. The ram had a cave in the timber in which to get out of the heat of the day, for protection, a stream for drinking not over 200 yards below, and ample feed all around! Well, 30 minutes later, after finding a reasonable rest on the steep hillside, Jerry had his ram, "the Wyoming ram with the golden horns". Jerry said the hunt conditions varied from 8" of snow to the 70's in temperature.

Now part two. The Alaska Chugach Mountains saw Jerry on a backpack hunt with R&R Guide Service, where he scored

on both Dall sheep and mountain goat, as seen here. The sheep hunt was 10 hours of steady uphill (isn't it always!) climbing with packs and gear, but with success on the first day due in no small part to the scouting performed by the outfitter. As far as the goat was concerned, they had to wait 6 hours for this billy, the smallest of 3, to move so when shot he would not fall into the glacier they were all standing on. He saw all kinds of game on this hunt, moose, grizzly & black bear, more sheep and goats. Congratulations Jerry on a wonderful hunting season, and he did not even tell me what success he had at home!

Renew Your Membership Now!

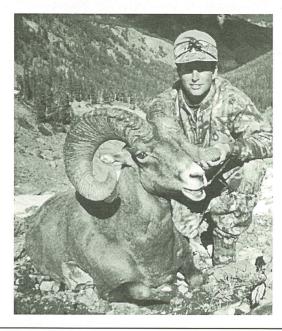
y friend **DUFFY BROWN** of Big Horn has a story with a happy ending. Duffy's Dad drew a sheep tag in 1992 and they hunted together for several days, passing up quite a few ¾ curl rams and missed the big one, going home empty handed, but elated with the togetherness; and anxiety settling in for Duffy to draw his own tag. Well he won out in1999 after 17 years of waiting, only to find out his Dad was diagnosed with cancer and would be unable to participate in the hunt. Never the less, Brown Sr. insisted the hunt go on.

Duffy and friends Steve Veo and Steve Hall left the trailhead on 6 September to begin their bighorn quest in area 4. After an 18 mile ride they set up a base camp to continue the hunt on foot the following day. Tracks in the week old snow indicated the sheep were in still more rugged and remote country. Off they went, and mid morning 9 rams were spotted. Three of the rams appeared to be in the 160-170 class but were about 800 yards away, with no cover for a stalk. Suddenly a coyote appeared above the sheep and they trotted off down the slope and out of sight of the hunters - good fortune, as this provided the opportunity for a stalk on the largest ram. After an anxious 45 minute wait the perfect shot presented itself and was delivered. The ram is 9 years old and has a beautiful head with dark pine-pitched horns and a dusky cape. The following two days were spent back packing out the meat, horns, and cape.

Duffy went on to say "I would like to thank Wyoming FNAWS board member Lynn Stewart of Dubois for the outstanding taxidermy work on my sheep. I would like to thank Steve Veo and Steve Heil for their hard work and helping me make my hunt of a lifetime come true. Al-

though my father did not make the hunt, I feel like he was just as much part of my success, and I want like to thank him for always sharing his love of hunting and the outdoors with me".

Duffy, you never told about your mother not having a big old nail in the living room wall of her home here in Riverton to show off your trophy when you picked it up from Lynn. I say that's blasphemous on her part, and I told her so!!!



DUFFY BROWN

received a concise report from **RON DUDA** of Cheyenne. He hunted in area 4 the middle of September with our chapter president, Jim Collins, and "killed a medium ram and had him mounted". Fortunately Ron and Jim preserved the horns and cape as the rest of the sheep went to the grizzly. I don't know how many of you have eaten wild sheep steaks, but they are a gourmet delight and do not deserve to go to any bear! Something is missing from this story and warrants further research on my part, as Ron twice mentioned that Jim is less than terrific at cooking bratwurst, even mentioning sending him a book on bratwurst cooking! I'll check into this. Ron also did not send a photo suitable for reproduction so Jim, do you have one?

In Ron's own words he "had thrill of a lifetime. Jim did more than expected to make my hunt possible. His knowledge, patience and hospitality before and after the hunt was exceptional, and he will be a friend for life". Thanks Ron, and don't worry about spelling, I have just about worn out my first dictionary and ready to order a second!



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Ferris/Seminoe Mountains (Area 17) (BHS615)

Revision Date: 7/7/00

Population Estimate: 20 (post season 1999)

Population Objective: 300

Most Recent Hunting Regulations: CLOSED

Current WGFD Managers: Greg Hiatt, Chuck Clarke, Travis Cundy

JCR Responsibility: Greg Hiatt

Other Contacts: Mary Read (BLM)

Previous Studies: Glenn Stout (date?)

Greg Hiatt (1978)

L. Kinter (1992)

Transplant History:

1958 Transplant - 7 sheep released at Morgan Creek - Hiatt (1978), Kinter et al. (1992)

1959 Transplant - 13 sheep released at Morgan Creek - Hiatt (1978), Kinter et al. (1992)

1967 Transplant - 18 sheep released at Morgan Creek - Hiatt (1978), Kinter et al. (1992)

1978 Transplant - 37 sheep released at Morgan Creek - Hiatt (1978), Kinter et al. (1992)

1980 Transplant - 61 sheep released at Morgan Creek - Hiatt (1980), Kinter et al. (1992)

1985 Transplant - 100 sheep released into Ferris Mountains - Kinter et al. (1992)

The state of the s

Total - 236 sheep released into herd unit - Summarized in Hurley (1996)

Problems:

Habitat -Water limiting? (WY-FNAWS funded guzzler on Ferris Mts. - \$2000)

Conifers - fragmentation of available sheep habitat; difficulty in implementing planned/funded prescribed burns

Low elevation, year-round range; accelerated plant phenology may lead to poor nutritional levels of lactating ewes

Domestic Sheep - Past transplanted sheep have interacted with domestic sheep near Bradley Peak, in gap between Ferris and Seminoe Mountains

Predation - unknown level of predation

Genetics - too small a population at present to be viable genetically

Disease - unknown

Migration - not really a migratory situation

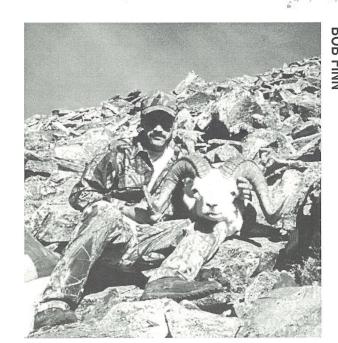
Herbivore Competition- Forage competition w/cattle and elk possible, and localized

Recreation/Development Encroachment -

Poor/Inconsistent Classification Data - no classification data collected in recent years; too expensive to justify, for so few sheep remaining

Hunting Related -

Other - the Seminoe Mountains might present an opportunity for a transplant of non-migratory, low-elevation, canyon-adapted California bighorn sheep from Oregon; need to address possibility/likelihood of interaction with domestic sheep near Bradley Peak



y good friend BOB FINN from here in Riverton had a successful and interesting Dall sheep hunt with Stan Stevens in the NWT last fall. When he landed in Norman Wells his rifle showed up but none of his additional belongings, including ammo, it went to Alaska! I believe it was about three days later when everything showed up. Then Stan had serious problems when he crash landed his wheel plane because of some metal fatigue in the landing gear and in attempting repairs severed the tendons in his hand. Naturally, this delayed the beginning of the hunt a few more days. After a trip to the clinic in Norman Wells for Stan, Bob's hunt was on, an in the day or two he had remaining scored on this beautiful 38 inch ram.

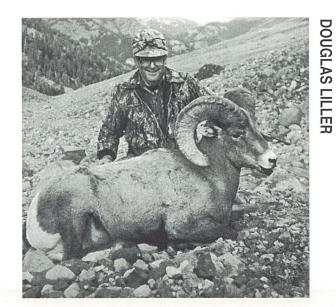
Bob also has a Rocky Mountain Bighorn he took on a self guided hunt a few years ago here in Wyoming, and is leaving in mid August for his Stone in B.C.! Good Luck Bob.

Don't Forget

WINTER WEETINGY

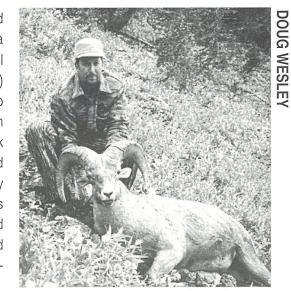
December 15-17, 2000 Rock Springs, Wyoming Holiday Inn

OUGLAS LILLER of Gillette had an exciting hunt in area 4, north of Dubois. He had the benefit of a couple of outfitters and board members of our chapter, Jim Collins and Cole Benton to guide him on his hunt. After hunting 6 days 6 rams were spotted and the prize Douglas was looking for was in this group. As it was late in the day the decision was made to head back to camp, get some food and prepare for a stalk early the next morning. At about 8:30 AM on the 23 of September the band of rams was again spotted and the stalk was on. Jim and Cole took turns glassing as they hiked down a wash, trying to get a closer look for the largest ram in the bunch. All proceeded well until about 1 PM when one of the rams spotted the hunters, and as they were in plain sight the ram had them pinned down for about an hour before he lost interest and went on feeding. Late afternoon was approaching and they had gained a vantage point approximately 450 yards away when again they were pinned down. This time it was only a short while before 2 of the rams separated themselves and moved down the hill enabling Douglas to crawl the last 60 or so yards for a shot at the largest ram in the original bunch. At 5:10 PM, after an 8 1/2 hour stalk, the bighorn ram pictured was Douglas' trophy. He said, "this had been the most exciting day of my 40+ years of hunting". Also spotted on the hunt were several bighorn ewes and lambs, a grizzly bear and one black bear. Douglas' final comment, "thanks again Jim and Cole for all your work".



OUG WESLEY of Berthoud, Colorado enjoyed a successful hunt in Area 7 last September. He with stood some stormy weather and rugged, high terrain to harvest this 34 curl ram. Of the hunt, Doug had this to say:

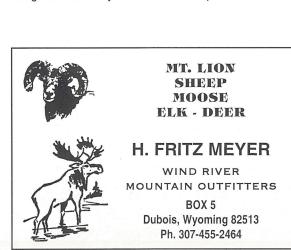
"It was excellent. I hooked up with a guide (Daniel Gustafson) out of Camp Creek Inn near Hoback Junction and really knew stuff. I would recommend him to any. one."



After a 10-mile ride into base camp two days before opening day, Doug and Daniel spotted some rams less than a mile from camp and thought they had it made. They joined up with two other hunters on opening day and made a collective effort, but with the exception of one immature ram, the others proved elusive.

Never fear, there's a happy ending. Two days later, Doug was successful. His five-year-old ram measured 16½" at the bases with a 29½" curl. He was "real happy with the whole experience" and is looking forward to getting his life-size mount from Lynn Stewart.

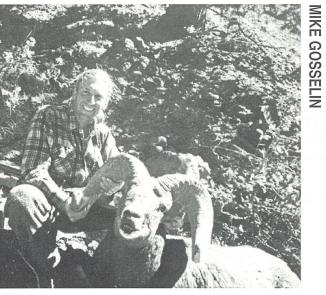
"Oh, yeah," Doug writes in closing. "I forgot to say that after I shot my ram a HUGE one stepped out of the pines...Oh, well, you can't really ask for complete perfection. Thanks to FNAWS and all the great work they've done for sheep."



ike looks pretty happy with this ram and he has every right to be. Look what he took back to Quebec! After many years of applying, Mike found himself the recipient of a sheep tag in Area 3. B. Joe Coy was his guide on a hunt that Mike described as "medium rough, but a slow start is a MUST for a boy who lives a sea level."

On the sixth day, after all kinds of weather, two rams were spotted. After a careful, two-hour stalk, Mike was close enough to take a shot. B. Joe had him hold out for the larger of the two, who was hiding behind a pine tree. The ram finally stepped out, giving Mike the perfect shot and a dream come true.

Mike extends his thanks to B. Joe, who he says is a "super person and guide." He also thanks George T. Law for the information he provided on the sheep application.

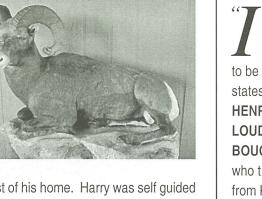


difficult but very rewarding experience," writes VINCENT PISANI of his Area 7 hunt. He began the hunt with his bow, but after 13 days and some inclement weather, Vincent took this sheep with his rifle.

Vincent has hunted in some remote country all around North America, including British Columbia, the Yukon, Alaska and also in Idaho and Montana. He was "very impressed" with the quality of the game and the outfitters in Wyoming and also with his guide, Paul Crittenden. He describes Paul as "one of the finest I have ever had the pleasure to hunt with. A gentleman and master guide."

"My hat's off to you in (the) Game and Fish Department. Keep up the good work. I hope to draw again and return to hunt with Paul."

s is the case with many of you, I have developed quite a friendship with H A R R Y REICHMAN of Cody, who scored on his "once in a life-



time trophy" in area 3 just west of his home. Harry was self guided but credits his success to wonderful buddies Duane Whitmer, Kenny Poley, and Eddie Bateson. Harry and Duane spent a good many days and nights exploring the area all summer and fall, really not locating any respectable rams.

Harry says, "My lucky day finally arrived 16 October while glassing in the South Fork area and spotted a fairly nice ram late in the day." Because of a steep crevasse and darkness the stalk ended with the distance too great for a shot. The following morning, along with friend Kenny, the hunt picked up where it had left off the previous evening, but taking advantage of the pitfalls learned the day before. This time, when the ram was spotted coming out of the canyon, Harry was able to get into position for the perfect one shot kill, at a distance of approximately 100 yards, over a ravine. "He went bottoms up and the greatest hunt of my life (so far!) had ended."

Here friend Eddie, who was deer hunting in the area, arrived, and between the three of them all of the meat, head, cape, and hunting gear was packed out.

An interesting and perhaps distressing fact narrated by Harry is that on two different occasions he spotted 3 wolves.

As I write these stories late July for our summer issue, Harry is in the hospital in Montana, so our prayers go out to you Pard for a healthy recovery. t was supposed to be easy," states
HENRY
LOUDER-BOUGH, who traveled from Klamath Falls,
Oregon to hunt Area 3.

"We were go-

ing to scout for a day or two before the season opened, pick out a nice ram, and take him opening morning. It didn't work out that way. We had to work at it! It was a great experience—the hunt of a lifetime."

Dubois outfitter Wayne Suda guided Henry on his hunt and indeed, it was a great hunt. Henry said Wayne was "very good" and he would go with him again in a heartbeat.



High Country Sporting Goods

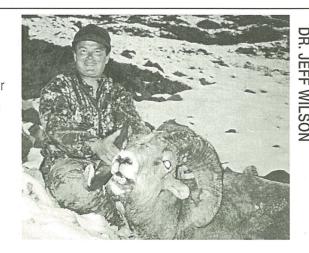
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ritz Meyer's knowledge of the terrain and habits of bighorn sheep made it possible," says **JEFF WILSON** of his successful Area 5 hunt. Jeff, who hails from Oroville, California, took this beauty after a three-hour stalk. "We spotted a group of seven rams about a mile away...and I took this nice ram."

"It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and experience,"

Jeff writes. Fritz is an "excellent outfitter. My highest recommendation."



REG MICHELENA of Clearmont, WY. had the good for tune to havehis 15 year old son BEN join him on their first ever sheep hunt pack trip. Area 3 was their destination, and good friend Frank Auzqui helped wrangle and tend camp for the duo.

After a long ride over Ishowa Pass and into Pass Creek they found enough hunters chasing elk to guess the sheep were down in the trees. Deciding to go to an area where they had spotted rams earlier in the season they glassed 3 definitely worth pursuing, but these sheep were in another drainage, requiring a move to the next trailhead. After getting organized they started out looking for the rams, but a new situation entered the picture, smoke, from a Forest Service prescribed burn cut visibility to zero!

Not to be deterred, the next morning found Greg and Ben again glassing for sheep and they immediately spotted a couple worth a closer look. The stalk began and out of nowhere 10, yes10, more big rams ran right under the others, spooked by something that caused them to run about a mile up the canyon. The boys knew right then and there they were on to something and they were in a prime location to continue their stalk. Naturally, at this point smoke from the burn began to fill the canyon, but thinned enough to continue, so on they went.

When Ben asked his Dad if he had seen the grizzly tracks they were crossing, Greg did not have presence of mind to answer as he was



looking at 6 of the rams, one of which he knew was made for that special place in his trophy room.

Greg says, "I snuck down to a dead log to get a good rest, I will never forget the noisy sounds of the rams rubbing their horns and grazing in the bushes only 40 yards away. I looked back at Ben and he gave me 'the nod' and I took him.

This hunt ended in a long night spent on the side of that mountain, and a heavy, hard climb back to camp. I am so pleased and lucky to have shared this experience with my son Ben, and I would like to thank Frank for taking care of camp, along with the animals, while we were doing what it took to get a ram in the smoke."

RIAN TAYLOR, another good friend from Kelly, up in the Jackson Hole country, wrote and said, "Well I didn't take a ram this year, I waited 18 years and wasn't going to kill one just to say I did. Didn't see the right one this time around. I respect the animals too much to just take any ol' ram that comes along. Maybe next time."

Brian is of the <u>Gros Ventre Wilderness Outfitters</u> Taylor family and he and his Dad, Glenn, guided me to a trophy elk some years back, when I was courting my wife, but Glenn or his wife Marian will have to tell you "the rest of the story".

I know Brian has taken a stone sheep and was accompanied by his brother and father on that hunt. He also guided a local hunter to a 168 B&C bighorn in 1998. Congratulations, Brian.

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WINTER MEETING

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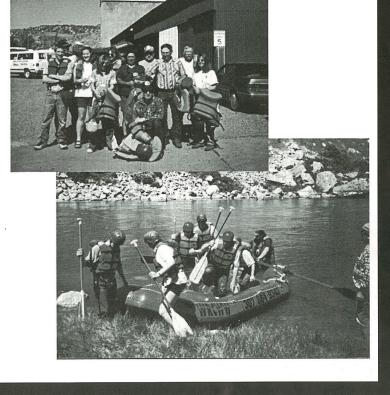
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SUMMER MEETING

Our summer meeting in Thermopolis was fun and business was conducted swiftly. Attendance was sparse because of the great Wyoming weather we have been enjoying. Of note, we voted to have president Jim Collins attend the national FNAWS directors meeting in Reno, in June, to discuss the Wyoming Chapter receiving a greater share of the proceeds of the Wyoming Governor's Big Horn Sheep License, which National auctions every year at the annual convention. am happy to report Jim was successful regarding this issue. More details are available if you wish to call any of our officers or directors, or meet with us when you come to the winter meeting in Rock Springs 16 December!





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