

# The RamPAGE

# Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation

*SPRING 2013* 

Photo credit: Corey Fischer



Plan to Attend the Annual WY-WSF Convention!

May 31-June 1, 2013

Parkway Plaza, Casper, WY

(See pages 6-15 for details & registration form!)

# 2013-2014 Calendar of Events

May 31-June 1, 2013 Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation Convention Parkway Plaza, Casper, WY

December 6-7, 2013 Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation Winter Membership Meeting

Location TBD/Announced

January 22-25, 2014 Wild Sheep Foundation Convention Peppermill Hotel/Reno-Sparks Convention Center Reno, NV

Cover Photo: WY-WSF Member Mickie Fischer of Casper, and his 2013 Baja **Desert Ram., taken with Ty Miller's El Fuerte Outfitters. See Mickie Fischer's & Life Member #224 Mike Brownell's desert ram hunt story + photos (page 40).** 

Interested in advertising 2X/year in *The Rampage*? If so, please see ad rates below. Due dates for ads to be included in the semi-annual *Rampage* are October 15th and March 15th. Get your message out 2X/year to 850+ wild sheep enthusiasts!!

# Wyoming WSF Board & Membership Meetings

Wyoming WSF holds its winter board/membership meeting on the first Saturday of December and summer convention/board/membership meeting the first Saturday in June. Details and locations are listed in the Calendar of Events and online at www.wyomingwildsheep.org.

Funding requests for consideration at the winter board meeting are due no later than Nov. 1. Funding requests for consideration at the summer board meeting are due no later than May 1.

The Grant-In-Aid request form is available on the Wyoming WSF website www.wyomingwildsheep.org. Contact address:

Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation P.O. Box 666 Cody, WY 82414

E-mail: info@wyomingwildsheep.org

WYOMING WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION

# The RamPAGE Newsletter

#### **FULL COLOR ADVERTISING RATES**

Full-Page \$250 (\$200/issue, 2 issues)

1/2-Page \$150 (\$125/issue, 2 issues)

1/4-Page \$70 (\$50/issue, 2 issues)

1/8-Page \$50 (\$40/issue, 2 issues)

Donations netting WY-WSF >\$500 entitle donor to a free 1/4-page ad in

next 2 issues of *The Rampage*.

Ads must be received in cameraready .jpg format by 10/15 & 3/15!!



# 2012-13 Wyoming WSF Officers & Board of Directors

#### President::

*Mike Porter* (6/2014)

2321 Easthaven Casper, WY 82609 Phone: (307) 258-7040 E-mail: fullcurl@yahoo.com

Vice President::

Jim Collins (6/2013)

910 Buchanan Road Thermopolis, WY 82443 Phone: (307) 864-3929

E-mail: sdckjim@rtconnect.net

Secretary:

Treasurer:

Joni Miller (6/2014)

6722 Hwy. 28 Lander, WY 82520 Phone: (307) 332-9119

E-mail:

joni.miller@fremontcountygovernme

nt.org

Past President::

**Bob Sundeen (6/2014)** 

P.O. Box 111

Buffalo, WY 82834 Phone: (307) 217-1110 E-mail: trailswest@vcn.com

Director:

*David Bishop* (6/2013)

P.O. Box 66

Moran, WY 83013 Phone: (307) 267-7041

E-mail: davidfbishop@aol.com

Director:

Steve Kilpatrick (6/2014)

2490 Horse Creek Road Jackson, WY 83001 Phone: (307) 733-8346 Cell: (307) 413-7249

E-mail: stevekilpatrick@wyoming

wildlife.org

Director:

Meade Dominick (6/2014)

2832 Chopper Lane Cody, WY 82414

Phone: (307) 899-1490

*E-mail:* 

meadedominick@hotmail.com

Director:

*Jerry Galles* (6/2013)

3332 Allendale Blvd. Casper, WY 82601 Phone: (307) 234-6100

E-mail: jerrygalles@wyobeam.com

Director:

**Daniel Hinz** (6/2014)

540 Road 2AB Cody, WY 82414

Phone: (307) 250-0056 E-mail: dhinz@tctwest.net

Director:

Dirk Montgomery (6/2014)

121 Dahlia Street Casper, WY 82604 Phone: (307) 631-1337

E-mail: dmontgomery@pmch.com

Director:

Raleigh Whalen (6/2013)

614 S. 8th

Laramie, WY 82070 Phone: (307) 631-0741

*E-mail:* 

wyowhalen@gmail.com

WY Game & Fish Liaison: Doug McWhirter

2820 State Highway 120

Cody, WY 82414

Phone: (307) 527-7125 or

(800) 654-1178

Fax: (307) 587-5430

E-mail:

Doug. McWhirter@wyo.gov

Executive Director: Kevin Hurley

P.O. Box 666 Cody, WY 82414 Phone: (307) 578-8613 Cell: (307) 899-9375

E-mail:

info@wyomingwildsheep.org

WSF Chapter/Affiliate Coord. Becky Layne, WSF HQ

720 Allen Ave.

Cody, WY 82414-3402 Phone: (307) 527-6261 Fax: (307) 527-7117

E-mail:

blayne@wildsheepfoundation.o

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#### Wanted: Your E-mail Address!!

Wyoming WSF is looking for e-mail addresses from our membership so that we can convey important information and communications in the timeliest manner possible (e.g., E-Newsletters). If you have not submitted an e-mail address or need to update the one we have on file, please send it to info@wyomingwildsheep.org.

Wyoming WSF will not share your e-mail address with third parties, nor will you receive solicitations or "spam" from our organization.

## **WY-WSF President's Message**

Past	Pres		len	ts
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1983	Dave Steger
1984	Dave Steger
1985	Dave Steger
1986	Ron Ball
1987	Ed Novotny
1988	Ed Novotny
1989	Dave Steger
1990	Dave Steger
1991	Jack Hildner
1992	Jack Hildner
1993	Ron Ball
1994	Ron Ball
1995	Ron Ball
1996	Ron Ball
1997	Jim Collins
1998	Jim Collins
1999	Jim Collins
2000	Jim Collins
2001- 2002	Cole Benton
2002- 2003	Cole Benton
2003- 2004	Cole Benton
2004- 2005	Cole Benton
2005- 2006	Cole Benton
2006- 2007	Cole Benton
2007- 2008	Bob Sundeen
2008- 2009	Bob Sundeen
2009- 2010	Jack Morey
2010- 2011	Bob Sundeen
2011- 2012	Mike Porter
2012- 2013	Mike Porter

Dear WY-WSF Members: Spring is in the air, depending on the day! Hopefully we will continue to get moisture for the coming summer for green grass, good horn growth, irrigation, possibly having a camp fire, and having water in our lakes and rivers.

The WY-WSF Board and our volunteer members, particularly Dr. Jim Wetzel of Casper, have been working hard, securing some great donations and sponsorships for the convention scheduled for May 31-June 1 in Casper. We have gathered some great hunts including a BC Mountain Goat hunt for 1 adult & 1 youth, an AK Dall Sheep Hunt, 2013 WGF Commissioner licenses, and many more items. If you have never been to our convention, or haven't come in a while, please try to make it. I have made a great push to try to get our youth to attend the banquet. Each youth in attendance receives a great gift from the chapter, along with learning more about conservation and the great legacy of WY-WSF. In addition, please consider attending the Life Member breakfast (complimentary, for Life Members Only), Ladies Luncheon, seminars, and banquet on June 1st.

Recent Board highlights: Record set for 2012 Banquet, 18 New Life Members, a great winter meeting in Thermopolis (thanks to Jim and Cindy Collins), the *RAMPAGE* has **gone "full-color", updated membership records, a re-**energized website (thanks to Raleigh Whalen), sponsoring Youth Outdoor Adventure Camp, WY-WSF Endowment established, partnership on disease research @ Washington State University, helped raise \$250,000+ through Midway USA for Wyoming 4-H Shooting Sports Foundation, established a guzzler in Bennett Mountains, and more.

Each year, Governor Matt Mead issues governor tags for 5 Wyoming Bighorn sheep tags. Wyoming Bighorns have set a NEW RECORD this year for licenses sales. averaging close to \$67,000/license. This money goes into the Wyoming Governor's Big Game License Coalition BHS Account, to spend on wild sheep projects in Wyoming, and beyond. Last year, the WGBGLC BHS Committee (Kevin Hurley, Ryan Amundson, Doug McWhirter, Bob Sundeen, Mike Porter) allocated over \$125,000 on 15 bighorn sheep projects in Wyoming; total WGBGLC funding for 2012 was \$350,000+. This is over and above what WY-WSF allocates; this is a great resource. Please take the time to thank Governor Matt Mead for continuing the Wyoming Governor's Big Game License Coalition, and encourage him to keep investing in Wyoming's wildlife.

As your board continues to grow your chapter, we encourage membership participation. Whatever your involvement, we appreciate it. Please consider running for the board, stretching a little more on a donation, or attending the banquet. Bighorn sheep continue to need our help even more.

The Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation Endowment is a great option for estate planning. Please consider naming WY-WSF in your estate plan through a specific bequest or gift in your wills and trusts.

WY-WSF purchased a new booth display this year (see page 10 of this *Rampage*). Thanks to Ryan Amundson for coordinating efforts on this new display booth, which matches the Wyoming Game & Fish booth. The back drop features beautiful sheep habitat in Wyoming with

conservation pictures and photos of harvested Wyoming rams.

The chapter needs your help to be successful. We look forward to seeing you and YOUR FAMILY in Casper on June 1st. Thank you for your contributions to an amazing year in 2012 for Wyoming Bighorns.

Sincerely, Michael J. Porter , WY-WSF President (Life Member #323)



# WY-WSF Executive Director's Message

Greetings to all our members! As Mike Porter stated in his President's message, your Board and I plus several dedicated volunteers have been working diligently to put together our 30th Annual Convention/Fundraiser. We hope you will be able to attend, participate, and help raise the funds necessary for your organization to meet its mission.

If you can attend, please bring 1-2 youth with you; we'll work hard to make their evening pretty special. If you can bring 1-2 hunting buddies (gals, that goes for you too!), show them what we're all about, the fun we have, and the dedication of our members and our donors, to help Wyoming's wild sheep. We'll have some top-notch auction items and raffles, along with our complimentary Life Member breakfast, the Ladies Luncheon, informative afternoon seminars, and all the associated activities. Mark your calendars now for May 31-June 1!

A financial matter that was addressed during the December 1, 2012 winter membership meeting in Thermopolis was the 3% "convenience fee" charged to WY-WSF by the credit card companies. Treasurer Joni Miller informed the membership that in calendar year 2012, over \$8,700 in credit card convenience fees were levied on the chapter. While still providing convenience to our members and purchasers, the membership concurred, and the Board subsequently adopted a motion to add/charge a 3% convenience fee on credit card purchases over \$500 (unless cash or a personal/cashiers check is received within 5 business days from the date of purchase). We hope this doesn't create hardship for any of our fundraiser attendees. We wanted to let our members know of this in advance, so they may plan their purchases/payments accordingly for June 1st!

If you have some items you'd like to donate to our fundraiser, please contact me at your earliest opportunity, so we can get the donation paperwork completed, and get your donation(s) included in the convention program.

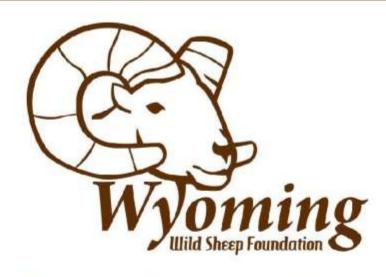
Lastly, I would sure appreciate those planning to attend to please fill out/submit your registration forms at your earliest opportunity. It makes the whole banquet/convention planning process go much more smoothly! Appreciate your assistance. See you in June!

WY-WSF Executive Director Kevin Hurley (Life Member #20)

Section 4(A)(ii) of the current WY-WSF ByLaws, approved by the membership on June 2, 2012 in Casper, reads:

ii) If the number of nominations is equal to or less than the number of Board positions to be filled, the Board may forgo a ballot election in lieu of a membership vote of acclimation at the first annual membership meeting.

Given that 4 current Board members (Jim Collins, David Bishop, Jerry Galles, and Raleigh Whalen each have terms expiring in June 2013, and given there were less than 4 nominations/applications received by press deadline for this issue of *The Rampage*, an election will be held during the Saturday June 1, 2013 Business/Membership meeting at the Parkway Plaza in Casper.



# 30th Annual Convention/Fundraiser

## May 31-June 1, 2013 Parkway Plaza, Casper, WY

- Friday Evening, May 31st: No Host Mixer/Raffle/Silent Auction
- ➤ Saturday June 1st: Membership Meeting/Ladies Luncheon/Seminars/Banquet
  - Saturday Morning: (Complimentary) Life Member Breakfast

Full Curl Table Package \$850: includes 8 banquet tickets, 2 bottles of wine, 4 hats, 8 annual memberships, \$200 worth of general raffle tickets, 4 \$50 Gun Board tickets, 1 chance for "Full Curl Table"-only firearm drawing, + business-card sized ad in 2 issues of *The Rampage* 

Auction Highlights (40+ Items, including Firearms, Artwork, Hunts, Trips)

7-Gun "Gun Board" Giveaway

Tickets: Call Kevin 307-899-9375 / info@wyomingwildsheep.org

\*3% Credit Card Convenience Fee Added/Charged on Purchases > \$500\*

A room block has been reserved (\$75/night/room) at the Parkway Plaza (307-235-1777 or 800-270-7829). Make reservations by May 24<sup>th</sup> and **mention you are with "Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation" to receive the** convention room block rate.

Using registration form on page 15, please send payment by May 24<sup>th</sup> to be eligible for the early bird drawing for \$100 auction credit! Questions? Call (307) 578-8613, (307) 899-9375, or e-mail info@wyomingwildsheep.org

# Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation ANNUAL MEETING/FUNDRAISER/CONVENTION Parkway Plaza, Casper, WY May 31—June 1, 2013

# Live Auction Highlights

- 2014/2015 10-Day Alaska Dall Sheep Hunt for 1 Hunter (pg 8)
- August 15-23 or 23-31, 2013 or 2014 (dates TBD w/ outfitter)
   NW British Columbia Mountain Goat Hunt for 1 Adult & 1
   Youth (10-18) Hunter/Non-Hunter (see page 9)
- 2013/2014 West Texas Aoudad Hunt for 1 Hunter
- 2013/2014 Main Fork Salmon River 5-Day Whitewater Raft Trip for 4 (see page 10)
- 2013/2014 Kansas Archery White-tailed Deer Hunt for 1 Hunter
- 2013/2014 Kansas Muzzleloader Mule Deer Hunt for 1 Hunter
- 2014 Kansas Eastern or Rio Grande Turkey Hunt for 1 Hunter
- 2013 Abaco/Bahamas Week-Long Getaway Beach Stay for 8
- 2013 WGF Commissioner's Elk/Deer/Pronghorn License
- 2013 Arizona Javelina Hunt for 2
- 2013 Wisconsin Muskie Fishing Trip for 2
- Sunlight Basin/7D Ranch 3-Night Stay for 2
- 2013 Banquet Rifle
- · Liberty Gun Safe, with WY-WSF Logo/Photo Wrap
- 40+ Live Auction Items!! Something for everyone!

# Other Convention Highlights

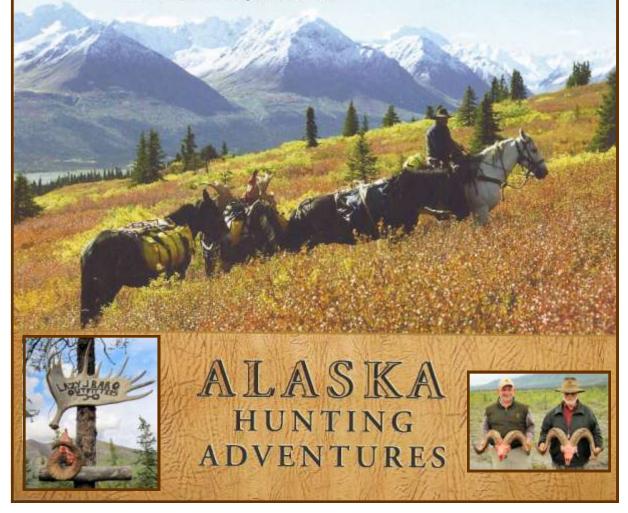
- Great Silent Auctions!
- Complimentary Life Member Breakfast (Saturday morning)
- Membership/Business Meeting
- Ladies Luncheon (see page 12)
- Informative Seminars on BHS Management/Projects
- No-Host Happy Hour
- Games/Raffles/Fundraising Activities
- "7-Gun" Gun Board Giveaway (see page 11)

# Lazy J Bar O OUTFITTERS



Lazy J Bar O Outfitters is proud to offer the finest in fair chase, high quality horseback hunting available for Alaskan Big Game. Experience the rugged beauty of the famed Yanert Fork-Wood River area of the Alaska Range while hunting for Dall Sheep, Alaska-Yukon Moose, Grizzly and Caribou.

Come and experience the back country of Alaska by hunting horseback for quality game, with me, Master Guide, Mike Colpo and my top-notch guides. Truly a high quality Alaskan hunt. We have been hunting this area since 1999 and I have been hunting and guiding in Alaska for the past 20 years. We pride ourselves on taking quality game and giving the hunter a great experience, providing a great camp, quality food, and some of the best saddle horses and pack stock in Alaska.



2014 12-Day Alaska Range Dall Sheep Hunt for 1 Hunter (1 X 1)
August 10-September 20 Season Dates; \$17,000 Value!!
Grizzly Bear & Moose May Be Added for Trophy Fees
Caribou May Be Added (If Successful on Draw)
Primarily Horseback Hunt, but Backpack Hunt on Yanert Glacier Is
Possible, If Desired



Stone Sheep

Grizzly Bear

Black Bear

Mountain Goat

Canadian Moose

Mountain Caribou



#### Mountain Goat

Goat is our most plentiful animal, offering a great opportunity to harvest a trophy animal. Our goats get every bit as big as coastal goats, but the hunting for them is generally more pleasant (less Devils Club and no coastal rain/fog). Our goats range in size from 9-11".

Golden Bear produces trophy class animals. In 2008 Tim Metcalf took the new world's record Pope and Young goat scoring 54 2/8 inches. Read his story here. Bob Schermer took a 53 6/8 Boone and Crockett goat on the same hund. We also took several other goats right at the 50" mark in 2008.



Hunt mid-late August for the best weather and after mid-September for the best hair. Goat hunting is strenuous and requires good physical conditioning. If you want a big goat, be prepared to turn down smaller billies. We do not encourage or promote shooting nannies, even though they are legal. We have several areas that can be accessed with horses for those who cannot hike far.

Click an image for a larger view.





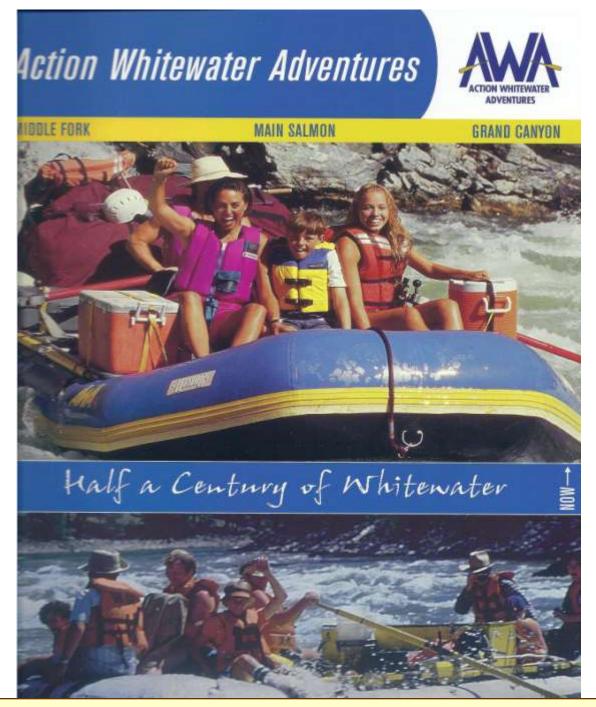




9-Day NW British Columbia Mountain Goat Hunt, Telegraph Creek
1 Adult & 1 Youth (10-18) August 15-23 or 23-31, 2013 or 2014 (dates
TBD w/ outfitter); Combined Value \$12,700!!
Hunter's Choice of Weapon (Handguns Excluded)
No Trophy/Harvest Fee for Adult Hunter; Adult Pays \$1,500 Air Charter
No Air Charter or Day Hunt Fees for Youth Hunter/Non-Hunter
Youth Hunter Only Pays \$4,000 Harvest Fee (If Successful)
Youth DOES NOT HAVE HUNT AT ALL (Only If Desired)
Accommodations (tents or cabins) Included in Hunt Package

Golden Bear Outfitting • Box 60 • Charlie Lake • British Columbia • V0 C IH0 • Canada Greg Williams • 250.827.3648 (w) • 250.263.5987 (m) • greg@goldenbearoutfitting.com

Gerry Raker • 517.542.4515 (w) • 517.252.0019 (m) • gerry@goldenbearoutfitting.com



2013/2014 5-Day/4-Night Whitewater Raft Trip for 4 Main Salmon River, central Idaho (June 18-August 21 raft season)







# WYOMING WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION GUN BOARD

7-GUN GIVEAWAY [ONLY 300 TICKETS WILL BE SOLD!!]
TICKETS ARE \$50/EACH, OR BUY 5 FOR \$200

Ruger M77 Magnum Hunter .300 Mag Rifle [Sponsored by ?????????]

Ruger Super Redhawk Alaskan .454 Casull Revolver

[Sponsored by ?????????????????????]

Remington 700 Mountain Rifle 25-06

[Sponsored by ?????????????????????????????????]

Beretta Xtrema Camo 12 ga. 3.5" Shotgun

[Sponsored by ??????????????????????????]

CZ550 Varmint Rifle .22-250

[Sponsored by ???????????????????????]

Savage M116 .300 Win Mag Rifle

[Sponsored by ???????????????????????????]

Marlin 1895 Lever-Action Rifle



39 North Main Buffalo, WY 82834

Ph: 307.684.1663

Fax: 307.684.4545

www.jlmengineering.com

Engineering and Surveying for Wyoming's Future



GUYS: SIGN UP YOUR FAVORITE LADY OR LADIES FOR THE 2013 LADIES LUNCHEON!

BE ENTERED INTO A DRAWING FOR A \$100 GIFT

CERTIFICATE FOR SPORTSMEN'S WAREHOUSE.

(ONE CHANCE PERTICKET!!!)

# Mark Your Calendars for our 2013 Annual Convention May 31-June 1, 2013, Parkway Plaza, Casper



(For WY-WSF office use only)

Destination/Item #

Donor Name:				
Company Name (if desired):				
Mailing Address:				
City:	State: ZIP:			
	E-mail:			
Donor's Signature (if availab	ole):			
	Committee Commit			
Date of donation:/				
Est. Value of Donation: \$	Item is 100% Donated?: Y or N			
Est. Value of Donation: \$ Donor Wishes % split (50% n	ACCOUNT OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR			
Donor Wishes % split (50% n	naximum split)?: Y or N			

If you know someone who might be interested/willing to make a donation to WY-WSF, please provide them with one of these donation forms, and ask that they make contact (*info@wyomingwildsheep.org*) no later than May 15, 2013!!

www.wyomingwildsheep.org

info@wyomingwildsheep.org

# Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation

2013 Wyoming Game & Fish Commissioners License Raffle Tickets \$100.00 each; Only 300 tickets!!

# 1° PRIZE: WYOMING GAME & FISH COMMISSIONERS ELK, DEER, OR PRONGHORN 2013 LICENSE

(Donated by WGF Commissioner Mike Healy, Worland)

2nd Prize: 7 Day Caribbean Cruise

3d Prize: Ruger No. 1 Sporter 300 WIN MAG Rifle

4th Prize: Ruger M77 Hawkeye 7mm Remington Magnum Rifle

5th Prize: Ruger SR1911 .45 ACP Pistol

6th Prize: Nikon 10 X 42 Monarch 7 Binoculars

7th Prize: Nikon 4 X 16 Monarch Rifle Scope

8th Prize: Nikon RifleHunter 1000 Laser Range Finder

9th Prize: GoPro HD Hero2 11MP Outdoor Edition Camera

10th Prize: Kindle Fire

Drawing will be held June 1, 2013 at the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation annual banquet in Casper, Wyoming. Winners need not be present to win. For more information, and to order tickets online, please visit the WY-WSF web site: <a href="http://www.wyomingwildsheep.org">http://www.wyomingwildsheep.org</a>

OR

For tickets, contact: WY-WSF, P.O. Box 666, Cody, WY 82414 (Phone): 307-899-9375 info@wyomingwildsheep.org

Commissioners License is good for Elk or Deer or Pronghorn in Wyoming, and is independent of regular WGFD license draw. Winners are responsible for all applicable license fees and taxes. Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation Board of Directors members are eligible to participate in all fundraising activities.

# Please send me WY-WSF Banquet, Gun Board, & Raffle tickets! \*Reserve a Full Curl Table!

Name	Spouse/Guest (if applicable):			
Mailing Address	City, State, Zip			
Daytime Phone: ()	E-Mail Address:			
Additional Guests Contact Info (Name(s), Add	lress, Phone #, e-mail, etc.):			
Single Annual Membership Ticket (includes 1	meal and 1 annual membership)	\$60	X	\$
Couple Annual Membership Ticket (includes 2	•	\$95		\$
Couple Annual Membership Ticket (includes 2	_	\$120		\$
Life Member Single Ticket (includes 1 meal fo	•	\$35		\$
Children under 16 (Youth Menu To Be Dete	,		X	
Ladies Luncheon (@ Parkway Plaza)		\$25		\$
Early Bird Raffle Tickets (6 sheets for \$100, \$	20 savings)	\$100		\$
I'm unable to attend the WY-WSF Convention,		\$25	X	\$
I'm unable to attend the WY-WSF Convention,	but please accept my donation, to help the	cause:	X	\$
Gun Board (N=7 Guns!) Raffle Tickets	<b>\$50/each or 5 for \$200</b> (Only 300 <b>0</b> will b	e sold!)	X	_ \$
<b>"Full Curl" Table Package</b> (includes 8 banque 8 annual memberships, \$200 in general raffle chance to win special "Full Curl Table"-only of <i>The Rampage</i>	tickets, 4 \$50 "gun board" raffle tickets, 1		X\$	\$
**********	***********	*****	******	******
Please Note: a 3% credit co	ard convenience fee will be added/c	harged o	n purchases	> \$500
Payment Method: r Charge to credit card (V	/isa/MasterCard Only) #:			-
Expiration Date (mmyy):/ Signat	ture (if paying by credit card):			
Check (made out to WY-WSF) enclosed for: \$				
For Life Members Only: Will you be attended # of Life Members	ng the complimentary Life Members breakfattending Names of Life Members a			
If you are a WY-WSF Life Member, would you If so, how much would you be willing to spons				akfast?

Broadcasting night and day.



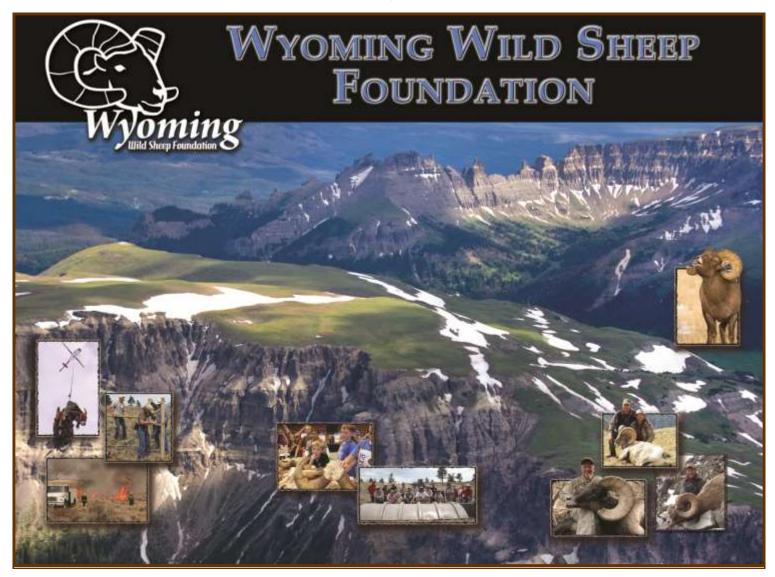
Wednesday, September 07 2011



Working with WY-WSF member Travis Collins, Korbe Palmer, General Manager, Lamar Signs, has again generously donated two billboards in the Casper area, to help advertise the upcoming WY-WSF 2013 convention. As you drive around/pass through the Casper area, please keep your eyes peeled for these billboards!

Thanks again to Korbe Palmer and Lamar Signs for their advertising assistance!! When you see Korbe at the June 1 banquet, tell him we appreciate the assistance and publicity from Lamar Signs!!





# New WY-WSF display booth!!



WGFD Habitat Extension Biologist Ryan Amundson (accompanied by his son Drake) of Wheatland managed to draw a White Sands Missile Range oryx tag in New Mexico.

While everyone's attention was diverted by the 2013 WSF Convention in Reno, Ryan and Drake beat feet down to WSMR/NM, and connected on a beautiful oryx! Congratulations!!

# WY-WSF Membership Application

If you see a "\*\*" next your name on the mailing label, your WY-WSF membership has expired. Renew your membership today using the form below. If you've changed your address, use the form below to advise us of the change or you can email address changes to info@wyomingwildsheep.org



Annual Membership \_\_\_\_\_\$25.00

3-Year Membership \_\_\_\_\_\$65.00

Lifetime Membership \_\_\_\_\_\$500.00\*
(includes choice of a life member knife or plaque)



	[* Optional paym	ent of \$100 down, \$7	00/quarter, until paid]	
	Renewal	New Member	Life Member	
Name			Telephone # (	)
Address			State	Zip
City			Email:	
Life Members Only	: Fixed blade kr	nife Locking k	olade knife P	laque

Make checks payable to: Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation P.O. Box 666, Cody, WY 82414

**WY WSF Name Tags** are available for purchase. 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

# Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation nametags (\$10): Please print your name below as you would like it to appear on your nametag. Other information to only be used for WY-WSF mailing purposes, or in the event of followup questions. First Name Last Name Address City State Zip Code Phone Number E-Mail Address

Evaluating Response of Reintroduced Bighorn Sheep in the Seminoe Mountains to Habitat Change

Justin G. Clapp and Dr. Jeffrey L. Beck Department of Ecosystem Science and Management College of Agriculture and Natural Resources University of Wyoming

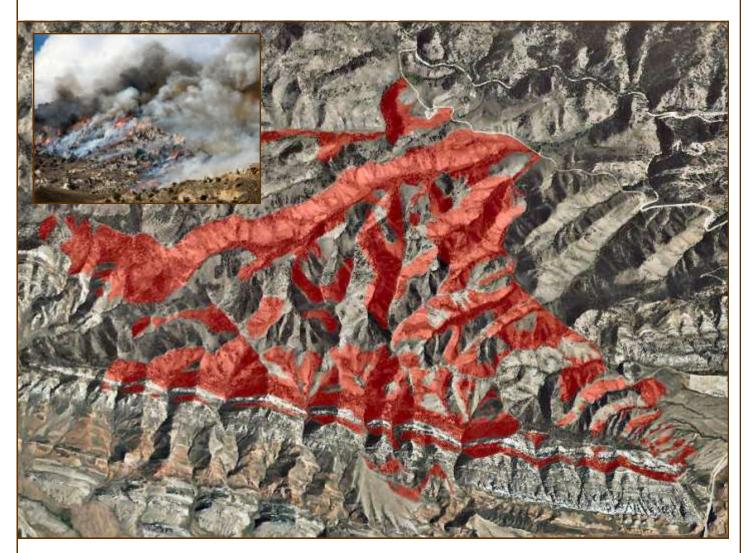
Wyoming's wide open spaces, pristine wilderness areas, and abundant wildlife on public lands create an ideal setting for a sportsman's paradise. Bighorn sheep rank near the top of the list for viewing and hunting opportunities. Although Wyoming has strong bighorn sheep populations, this is only possible through a combination of proper management strategies and hard work, to ensure individual populations thrive. Translocation efforts to supplement or reintroduce bighorns into historic range throughout the state play a major role in bolstering bighorn sheep populations. However, the success of translocated bighorn sheep is highly variable, with many efforts less than successful. Undaunted by previous attempts, we continue to learn from our mistakes, adapt, and use the best science available in efforts to restore bighorn populations. An excellent example of applying scientific information to ensure success when translocating sheep occurred during the past decade when wildlife managers in Wyoming translocated bighorns into habitats that better matched the source animal's life-history strategies (e.g., lambing chronology, migratory tendencies, etc.). These attempts have resulted in marked improvements in restoring isolated, non-migratory bighorn sheep in our state. However, managers are still aware of the obstacles these newly established populations face, including susceptibility to disease and predation, as well as restricted habitat availability. Thus, additional research plays an important role to gain knowledge about what strategies can be implemented to improve the success of bighorn translocations.

Fifty-two bighorns were translocated to the Seminoe Mountains in December 2009 and December 2010 from source herds in Oregon (Diablo Rim, John Day River Canyon) and Devil's Canyon near Lovell, Wyoming, where habitats are similar to those in the Seminoe Mountains. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department released and monitored these animals for 2 seasons, creating an opportunity to investigate variables that influence transplanted bighorn sheep. Findings from a preliminary study provide insight into the translocated population, including higher lamb recruitment being documented than in previous translocation attempts, and findings that bighorns only occupied portions (specifically the perimeter) of the "high quality" winter habitat modeled for the Seminoe Mountains. Other research has shown that small populations of isolated bighorn sheep that are tightly concentrated have higher probabilities of extirpation due to factors including disease, predation, and genetic drift, compared to populations spread across a larger landscape, in multiple subgroups.

A fundamental question for bighorn sheep inhabiting the Seminoe Mountains is what management practices can be implemented to promote expansion of the reintroduced herd within the mountain range, as well as potential expansion



to other nearby ranges? An analysis of bighorn habitat selection during the first 6 months following the December 2009 release indicated that these sheep may have been restricted from good quality winter range by snowpack or dense vegetation and timber encroachment. Previous research indicates that dense vegetation and timber encroachment can create visual barriers that restrict suitable habitat for bighorn sheep. The Rawlins BLM office designed a prescribed burn on the Seminoe Mountains to improve forage quality and reduce timber-encroached areas of the mountain. Information on the location and extent of the fire will be valuable to couple with over 2 years of GPS and observational data on lambing for these sheep. We contracted with a helicopter company to capture a new sample of 25 bighorns (20 adult ewes and 5 adult rams) on December 2 and 3, 2011 to provide additional data useful to evaluate the response of bighorn sheep to prescribed burning on the Seminoe Mountains. The capture crew collected biological samples for disease testing, determined age of each sheep, provided a dosage of Ivermectin to treat each sheep for worms, and equipped each animal with a GPS transmitter collar. Most prescribed burning was completed in May 2011, with a follow-up burn conducted in March 2012. However, a wildfire in July 2012 increased the area burned. Justin Clapp is using this large data set as the basis for his thesis as part of the degree requirements for his MS program in Rangeland Ecology and Watershed Management, which he began in August 2012 at the University of Wyoming. Justin brings 2 years of experience monitoring the Seminoe Mountains sheep as a technician with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department to his graduate program. Justin is being advised by Dr. Jeff Beck, wildlife habitat restoration ecologist in the Department of Ecosystem Science and Management at the University of Wyoming. Dr. Beck has conducted work on a variety of wildlife species and habitat issues in several western states.

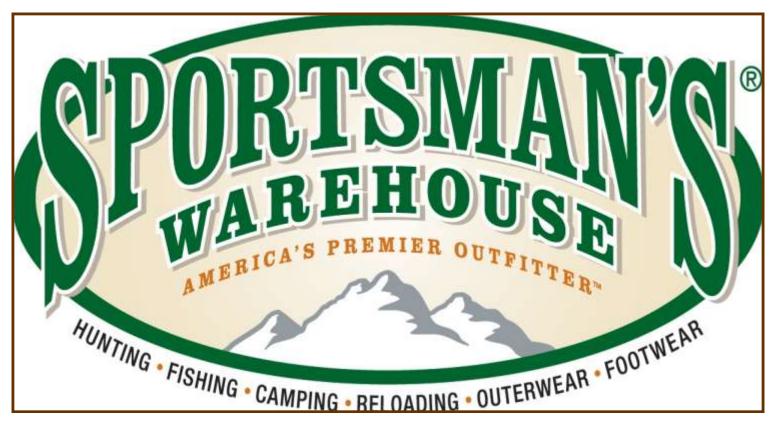


The first objective of our study focuses on the effects of habitat alteration on the reintroduced herd. We first plan to conduct a resource selection function (RSF) analysis across seasons throughout the study. Resource selection modeling is very useful in identifying specific factors such as topography and vegetation communities that wildlife populations select on a seasonal basis. We will compare before and after burning RSFs to detect changes in habitat selection that may be related to fire effects. Next, we will compare bighorn distributions before and after fires to define areas of spatial overlap and expansion. This information will be very useful to identify whether the reduction of dense vegetation and timber encroachment led to expansion of the herd into previously unused portions of the Seminoe Mountains. A second and related objective of our research is to use lamb observation data to detect demographic changes (lambing success and survival) before and after the fires. Results from this aspect of our research are intended to provide managers additional insights about the potential effects of habitat alterations for bighorns in similar habitats, as well as to implement effective habitat management strategies prior to translocations.

Our third research objective is to assess acclimation time for translocated bighorn sheep after release. Previous research suggests that typical animal movements are interrupted by stressful events including capture, immobilization, and especially translocation. Acclimation after translocation represents the time it takes for animals to localize into an area, reduce sporadic movements, and settle into new surroundings. This assessment has the potential to greatly improve release strategies in future translocations. For example, research shows that newly translocated individuals have a higher risk of mortality as they acclimate to novel, unfamiliar environments. By predicting the time it takes for bighorns to acclimate after release, managers may maximize the efficiency of post-release monitoring protocols, as well as the timing of predator control efforts. Comparisons of acclimation time will be conducted by comparing similar low-elevation bighorn sheep translocations across the state, including those in Laramie Peak and Devil's Canyon. Finally, since the Seminoe herd consists of 3 translocation efforts, we will also compare acclimation time of the initially translocated animals to supplemental releases. It is likely that the gregarious nature of bighorn sheep leads them to join other animals that have already settled into the area. This information is valuable because it could alter release strategies in the future to reduce the time of acclimation, thereby reducing mortality risk.



Progress reports provided by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department through spring 2011 indicate that lambing success and survival was substantially higher in comparison to previous translocation efforts in the Seminoe Mountains. Most translocated ewes successfully bred before translocation and thus showed high lambing success. In addition, subsequent fall observations in the Seminoe Mountains consistently show groups of ewes with rams present during the rut. Monitoring efforts in 2012 reported an estimated lamb survival rate of 62.5%; greater than previous translocation efforts where as few as 1 lamb was identified during fall observations. Also, no mortalities have been observed from individuals captured in December 2011. Monitoring of bighorn sheep will continue in the Seminoe Mountains through spring 2013, when we will conduct lamb observations and retrieve GPS collars. The Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation has been a valuable partner through all stages of our research including providing funds to conduct aerial and ground monitoring, cover travel expenses, and support project personnel. With continued support, knowledge gained from our study will provide managers the tools to maximize bighorn translocation success, and ultimately "put more sheep on the mountain."



### Wanted: Your Hunt Story & Photos!

If you are a WY-WSF member, and have a hunt story and photos that you'd like to share with our membership, we want to print it! Just send it to Wyoming WSF, and we'll try to publish it in our semi-annual newsletter, *The Rampage*. Photos are also welcome. Send your story and photo(s) to: Wyoming WSF, P.O. Box 666, Cody, WY 82414 Stories can also be e-mailed (WORD .doc format, please) to: *info@wyomingwildsheep.org*. E-mailed photos should be in jpg format ( $\geq$  300 dpi)



# Population Parameters of Bighorn Sheep Inhabiting the Elk Mountain Region of South Dakota and Wyoming: Project Update

Submitted By: Brynn Parr, Graduate Student, South Dakota State University; Dr. Jonathan Jenks, Distinguished Professor, South Dakota State University; John Kanta, Regional Wildlife Manager, South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks; Joe Sandrini, Senior Wildlife Biologist, Wyoming Game & Fish; Dan Thompson, Trophy Game Biologist Wyoming Game & Fish

#### Abstract:

South Dakota Game, Fish, & Parks (SDGFP) and Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) employees joined efforts to capture bighorn sheep on Elk Mountain using both a drop net capture on Monday, 21 January 2012 and net gun capture provided by Native Range Helicopter Services on Wednesday, 6 February 2012. All sheep captured had blood drawn, tonsils, ears, and nasal passages swabbed, and fecal samples collected. Ewes were checked for pregnancy status by vaginally inserted ultrasound examination. All female sheep and males under age 3.5 were aged via an assessment of tooth wear and incisor eruption, and the age of older males estimated from horn annuli. All ewes and small rams were fitted with an ear tag for additional identification. Weights were taken when body temperatures of sheep were below 105 degrees Fahrenheit (40.6°C). The drop net capture resulted in capture of fifteen sheep: nine adult ewes, three yearling ewes, two young rams, and one male lamb. All fifteen sheep seemed to be healthy. Eight of the adult ewes were pregnant and received a vaginal implant transmitter (VIT). The other four ewes, three of which were yearlings, were not pregnant. The 6 February net gunning effort resulted in capture of 18 sheep: 11 ewes and 7 mature rams. We suffered one capture mortality (ewe). Nine of the remaining 10 ewes were pregnant, and each received a VIT. The only ewe to test negative for pregnancy was old (13).

#### Report:

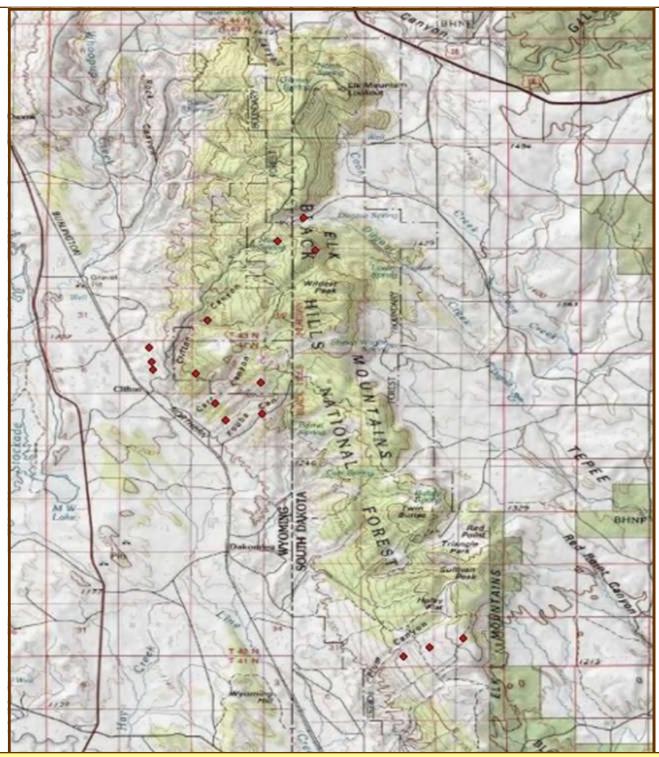
Starting 7 December 2012, I began baiting in Carr Canyon, Wyoming, using alfalfa hay and apple mash. Deer began feeding on the site immediately. Sheep were seen feeding on or near the bait site sporadically from 10 December 2012 to 10 January 2013. On 11 January, a snow storm moved through the hills, covering Elk Mountain in snow. Starting 13 January, sheep began feeding on the bait site daily. As a result, I began sitting away from the bait site and watching for sheep to determine exactly when they visited the bait. The sheep were observed on the bait within an hour after fresh bait had been thrown out. On 15 January, I assisted John Broecher of SDGFP with setting a drop net out over the bait. New bait was again thrown out the next morning, and again the sheep came in to the bait site within an hour. They went under the net to feed without any hesitation; consequently, the drop net capture was scheduled for 21 January.

On the morning of 21 January, approximately 25 employees and volunteers gathered to participate in the drop net capture. Fresh bait was put out shortly before sunrise. Approximately twenty minutes later, four sheep (two ewes and two young rams) began feeding on the bait under the net. Two radio-collared sheep were close, and we decided to wait for them to feed on the bait. The four sheep moved out from under the net after feeding for fifteen minutes. Another fifteen minutes passed, and a large group of 23 sheep, including the two radio-collared sheep, moved as a single unit under the net to begin feeding. We then dropped the net and were able to capture 15 sheep. The two radio-collared sheep escaped from under the net before we were able to detain them.

On 6 February, 2013, Native Range Helicopter Services arrived to capture sheep. The sheep were caught on both South Dakota and Wyoming sides of Elk Mountain, and from both the northern and southern portions of the mountain. Seven of the ewes captured via helicopter were wearing collars deployed during the 2012 capture. The collared ewes were intentionally recaptured to test for pregnancy and to be fitted with VITs if pregnant. We collected tissue samples and swabs on these recaptured ewes to compare health between 2012 and 2013. Collars on these ewes were readjusted if necessary. In addition, seven mature rams and four new ewes were captured. Total number of collared sheep on the mountain is currently 30: eight mature rams and 22 ewes.

To date, all 30 collared sheep are alive and moving around the mountain. Five of the collared ewes have moved back to the southern end of the mountain and remain together. The other sheep, both rams and ewes, have been observed in groups with other collared sheep, but have not shown strong group fidelity.

Disease results have been obtained. Between both 2013 captures, eleven sheep had lungworm larvae in their fecal samples (*Protostrongylus* spp.), five sheep had ticks (*Otobius megnini*) in their ears, all sheep were exposed to Parainfluenze-3, and four sheep were positive with bacteria associated with pneumonia (two with *Mannheimia haemolytica*, two with an unidentified M. spp.). Overall, the herd has had low exposure to diseases relative to other herds in Wyoming and South Dakota.



A map of Elk Mountain. Red dots indicate where the sheep were captured via helicopter; multiple sheep were captured at a few of these locations.









# Majestic Creations Taxidermy

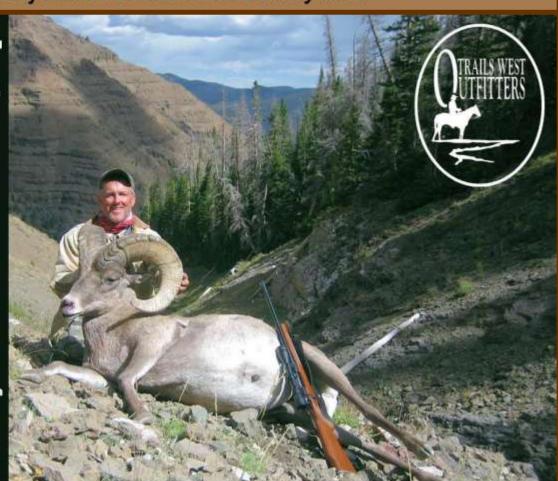
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#### Trick or Treat Ram by Rick Pallister, Buffalo, WY

"Hey, Rick!," came the exclamation from behind me. I whirled as best as I was able, laden with sheep meat, rifle and walking stick, certain that John Baughman had spotted another grizzly. Scrambling for my bear spray, I asked, "What, what?" John said, "What the Sam Hill are two guys our age doing up here in the wilderness, backpacking a sheep?" Thankful that it wasn't the 14<sup>th</sup> griz spotted during my sheep hunts this fall, I gasped out, "It's what we needed to do to get the sheep, and 'cuz we can, John!"

I was lucky enough to draw this Hunt Area 5 Wyoming sheep permit in 2011. As it turned out, the 2011 Wiggins Fork Fire impacted access via some of the trails and trailheads, and Wyoming Game and Fish offered one year deferments to 2011 license holders. Since my frequent hunting partners, my brother Zach and my best friend Skip Shoutis, had other commitments in early September 2011, I went ahead and took the deferment. What a great opportunity that was for me! We were able straighten out their calendars, so they could accompany me, and I was given another full year of anticipation and planning and gear-buying. Oh yeah, I was supposed to get in better shape, too. Right....

No stranger to the Greybull River country, I had a pretty good idea where I wanted to concentrate, but I consulted with biologists and game wardens and outfitters I have known for years. Having harvested a sheep many years ago in the Dinwoody, I wasn't so much centered on taking a ram as I was on having the perfect experience. Outfitter and good friend Bob Sundeen, laughed and said, "You just want a camping trip!" He had it just right. I wanted to go back country with friends and livestock, take all my camping stuff out of the barn and give it all a good airing out in the best chunk of country on God's Earth. We wanted to see country and wildlife, work and ride and walk hard, eat a lot, and enjoy one another and our critters, and see if we could find a good ram. Generous as he always is, Bob and his guides freely gave me advice and I reciprocated by staying out of his hair when I knew he had clients.

We planned our hunt to leave Jack Creek on the 10<sup>th</sup> of September, but I couldn't stand it and went up the Wood River and hiked out from Kirwin the first weekend of the season. I enjoyed being by myself and seeing a lot of game, including some rams which were being pursued by other hunters. Grizzly sign was abundant wherever I went. That certainly puts some snap in your wilderness experience and changes how you hunt, especially when you are alone!

We loaded our gear and got an early start up the river on a lovely day. It turned out that all the days of that trip were beautiful, though so smoky in the afternoons that hunting was very difficult. We arrived in our camp area by 2:30 and got camp set up, haul lines strung, and the horses picketed out or in an electric corral. Then, Zach and I walked up a drainage from camp, and Skip headed to where he had killed a lovely ram two years previous. Entering the first meadow up from camp, we began to glass the surrounding rims. Zach quickly spotted a ram in a bowl above us, and we set a spotting scope to home in on it. Seeing a movement above us, I lowered my binocular and spotted a big boar grizzly walking out of the timber right next to camp, only 160 yards away. Thankfully, he knew we were there and was only interested in putting some distance between us. Wouldn't you know, though, he went into the timber right where we'd need to go to get closer to the ram. No problem, he could have it. Zach had a restless night of it and dreamed that the boar had him by the head. I don't think he got a lot of sleep the whole trip! Skip saw eight sheep that evening, so we went that way in the morning only to find that four grizzlies were traveling up the drainage, and the sheep were nowhere to be seen. It was great to see the bears at that safe distance. We spotted one more bear that morning, making 6 that we saw in the first 24 hours of our hunt. These drainages are normally ram pastures in September, but they were mighty empty through those days. We hunted hard as long as visibility and daylight lasted through several days, seeing a lot of sheep, deer and elk, but no rams that I wanted to pursue.

One afternoon, Skip returned to camp with the animals to start dinner, and Zach and I walked down a ridge, back to camp. Skip had spotted several sheep across the river, but smoke prevented us from seeing exactly what they were. My bet was on rams, and the following day we found them. There were 12 rams, including 3 whoppers, but they were in some really tough country. We figured out a way to get within rifle range, and Zach and I made an approach while Skip kept track of the critters and our progress. We scaled a steep-as-a-goat's-face slope on marble-sized rocks over bedrock. I think I gave my baby brother something to worry about other than grizzly bears! Reaching the top of the slope, we carefully peeked across the canyon and many of the rams were bedded on cliffs just across from us, less than 300 yards away. We were on a cliff, they were on a cliff. If I shot a ram and it stayed where I shot it, there was no guarantee we could retrieve it, and if it fell the thousand feet to the bottom, it was likely to be in terrible shape. I passed, and we scree-skied off there to try another day. After a tough ride we found them in another place the next day...same conditions, though, so we passed again. Those big rams seduced me, and I spent a lot of time on subsequent days trying to figure out where they went. Shoot, they might still be on those inaccessible cliffs! They are only getting older and bigger!

That ended our "camping trip" but not the sheep hunts. I relied heavily on maps that Kevin Hurley had helped me put together years previous, and I made several other trips, some with horses and some afoot. I had opportunities at sheep, saw literally

thousands of elk, and made some really extreme hikes, including a terrific experience with sheep hunter extraordinaire and hard guy Bill Dooley. We saw a couple decent rams that day, but a sow and two cub grizzlies (#11, 12, and 13 for the fall) went into the same little side canyon the rams had disappeared into. As we peered into the canyon between thickening snow flurries, Bill asked, "What do you think?" "Same as you, Bill. Only three things can happen if we go in there with the bears and the sheep and two of 'em are NOT good!" We passed and walked out into the snowy evening.

At that point I felt that I'd already had a terrific sheep hunt. Yes, I wanted a ram, but I had had the experience that I wanted. I elected to go once again on the last couple of days of the season. Two brothers were to meet me, but were unable to make it. I alerted John Baughman that I'd be hunting. I hiked alone and found some sheep in the Piney Pass area, but no real good rams. I saw bull elk everywhere, including some at 12,000 feet. On my return to the trailhead I connected with John, and we spent the afternoon glassing and trying to make a plan for the following day.

That evening, we got a tip from some elk hunters that they'd seen some rams in the Warhouse Creek drainage. It was a long hike, but nothing compared to what Bill and I had done, so we set off before daylight on the very last day of the season, Halloween. We crossed the river before daylight, stashed our wet shoes, and took off. It was soon apparent that things had changed with the lateness of the season, and we saw many ewes and lambs during our hike, much closer to the river than they had been in previous weeks. Reaching the height of land, we were glassing a long canyon when 15 ewes and lambs came into view, pinning us down. Maybe that gave us the patience to stay where we were, and John spotted several rams across the canyon. When we got a scope on them, we realized that there were good older rams among them. This was it. Either there was a satisfactory ram among them, or the season was over. We could not make a direct approach for fear of spooking the ewes close to us, and in any case there was a series of cliffs which prevented us from dropping off the canyon rim. Finally, we decided to stay on the trail and pretend that we hadn't seen the rams, walking perhaps a mile up the canyon until we could drop off unseen. Somehow, terrain seems to change when you get down in it! I was certain we were climbing up the right grassy, steep, and awful chute, but when we came out, we were much further away from the rams than I thought we would be. The breeze was tricky, and a closer approach was risky, so we began to look for the best shot option and to pick the best of the mature rams. John ranged the rams...it was long for me, but I was confident of the shot. We spent quite some time looking over the sheep, trying to figure out which ram was best. When we had first spotted them, they were up and feeding. Now, however, it was afternoon and they were bedded. John said, and I agreed, that they probably wouldn't get up again until 4:30. I decided to take the shot that was offered. At the report, the rams all jumped up and ran, but thankfully, they ran toward us and gave me another opportunity, and he was soon down. It was clear that this old boy had been the leader, for the rest of the rams didn't want to leave, letting us walk within 75 yards of them.

As we approached, I asked John to give me just a few moments with the ram. I thanked the ram for giving himself to me, and asked his forgiveness. The old boy turned out to be 10 ½ years old, and is as fine a specimen as anyone could ask. He gave me a lot. He gave impetus to spend 18 days of hard hunting, the incentive to stay fit, opportunity to anticipate the hunt, and to spend wonderful days with some of my most loved family and friends, the chance to experience wilderness at its best, and most challenging, to hear some riveting hunting tales and to gain a hunting partner in a man who had been a colleague and fishing partner, and to reconnect with some of my old work pals and outfitter friends. I am thankful for you all! Thanks to all of you who went over maps with me, who checked in with me, who offered help in packing a sheep if it came to that, and who swapped those precious stories with me! The shared memories are the true treasures we bring home from the hunt.

John and I reached the trailhead about dark, weary, but feeling really good about our Halloween Day's experience. I could not have asked for more!









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### Round Two - Loren Kohnen, Life Member #281, Corcoran, MN

On November 16, 2012, Ron Vollrath and I left for southwest Texas to finish a two-animal hunt with Rowdy McBride on the Williams Ranch. Earlier, during a 2011 hunt with Rowdy, Ron and I were each hunting for a Red Sheep and an Armenian Sheep. As luck would have it, Ron got a great Red Sheep and I got an Armenian. Running out of time, Rowdy invited both of us back this year, to finish the hunt.

We started Monday morning looking for a Red Sheep for me; Rowdy, with great eyes, spotted a group of 5 rams at over 1,500 yards. The stalk was on! Checking wind direction, we moved around to get much closer. After about half an hour, we started to belly-crawl, which I thought was about 100 yards over rocks and cactus, but was actually less than 100 feet.

Rowdy got us within 150 yards of the 5 rams; I got set up, and the rams started to move. Rowdy said, "take the lower of the 5." The ram was not a good angle, but was facing us. Rowdy said, "take the shot now!" Which I did, and it was a good one. A beautiful ram was down. Not bad for 1:00 pm on the first day of our hunt.

A day and a half later, Ron got a great Armenian ram. What a great hunt Rowdy gave us. Great accommodations, good cooking, and a great hunting area. Texas offers many great animals to hunt. I'm thinking of taking my granddaughter there for her first hunt!



# 2012 HA 19 Ram—Dale Hill, Casper, WY

During spring 2012, I was in Saskatchewan, Canada hunting snow geese with Jeremiah Lovelace when he received a call and informed me that Rory Shogren, another hunting buddy of ours, and I had both drawn bighorn sheep tags for Hunt Area 19. Jeremiah had taken his bighorn in HA 19 back in 2004, and knew the area very well; he was excited that I had drawn this tag. This would be my 3<sup>rd</sup> Wyoming bighorn tag, here in my home state. My two previous tags were HA 10 back in 1970 when I was 16 years old, and then again in 1980. Hunt Area 19 poses some major access issues; the areas where the majority of bighorn sheep are located on public lands require that you must gain access across private property to get there and/or across small blocks of state lands, surrounded by private property. I was fortunate to have the help of some young eyes and legs that included my son Adam, Jeremiah, Rory, and another hunting buddy Jeff Muratore, to help scout all summer.

I visited several times with Ryan Amundson a Wyoming Game and Fish biologist that lives in Wheatland, and he gave me landowner information, hunter contacts, and some tips on hunting rams in area 19. Throughout the summer, we located several good rams and found ourselves naming each of them for future reference, giving them names like Banana Head, Saw, White Face, and Flare; a ram that Rory and I found was a giant we named Chunk, because he had a chunk of horn missing on one side. I guessed this ram to score in the mid 180s. This ram had me screwed up the entire season because I compared every ram I looked at to him, and nothing was measuring up to his size. I made it clear to the guys that this was my third sheep, and I was not going to shoot anything less than a 170 class ram.

Rory and I decided to hunt together; September 1st came soon, and the hunt was on. Rory killed a great ram the first week, and because I'm retired, I was in no hurry, and wanted to find Chunk. All the guys hunted with me as much as they could nearly every weekend, and I stayed at it nearly every day. Late September while hunting by myself, I found the ram we named Flare and stalked him to within 340 yards, and set up with full intention of shooting him. He was bedded with 2 smaller rams, so I didn't need to rush the shot. I watched him for over an hour with my Leica spotting scope, and again comparing him to Chuck, and having the entire month of October to hunt, I talked myself out of taking him, and backed off without spooking him. That night, after talking to my son Adam and Jeremiah on the phone, I had second thoughts that I had made a mistake, but like I told them "you would have had to have been there". His head was so big, it made his horns look small, and I didn't want anything to do with ground shrinkage on what was probably going to be my last sheep hunt.

About a week later, I found a big ram and a smaller ram that I had not seen before, and watched them go in a canyon and bed down. I climbed up on a ridge and tried to call my son **Adam, but he didn't answer so I called Jeremiah; he answered. I described the ram to him,** and he said he could be there in about 3 hours if I wanted some help. He got ahold of Adam, Rory, and Jeff, and they all headed my way. While talking to them on the phone, Rory said he thought it might be White Face a ram that he and Jeff had seen before, and if it was him, he was definitely a shooter. I moved back to where I could see the rams, and waited for the guys.

About 30 minutes before the guys showed up, 20 head of elk fed right to the rams, and of

course the rams got up and moved over a ridge where I couldn't see them. The guys made it to where I was, and we planned our stalk. It took us about an hour to find the rams, and luckily he had just went over the ridge and bedded down again. Rory and Jeff said it was no doubt White Face, and all agreed he was about a mid- to high 170 ram. The problem it was going to be a long shot, ~530 yards. I had been shooting long range all summer, and was confident at that distance. Conditions were perfect, no wind, slightly down hill, off a bi-pod. Well, the shot went high and the ram ran down the mountain, never to be seen again. After all that, the guys driving down, great stalk, and I miss. @#&%! We all spread out and spent the rest of the day trying to locate the rams again, but couldn't find them. I decided to go home that night for a couple of days; what a long ride home that was reliving the shot in my mind and coming up with every excuse in the world for missing. Adam said it best with you missed, it happens!

I spent a couple of days at home and headed back. Adam, Jeremiah, and I backpacked to Collins Peak to hunt 2 days, only to find smaller rams on the public lands. Jeremiah and Adam headed home and I stayed at it. One tip that Ryan Amundson gave me was that if you see rams in one location and they move they seem to come back about every 10 days or so. I found that to be true because on the 48th day of season and my 43rd day of hunting, Flare and the same 2 smaller rams came back to within 200 yards of the same spot where I had passed on him in late September. The wind was horrible that morning, blowing 15 -20 mph, so I was determined to get close. I watched the rams bed on a bench behind some boulders, and there was no way for me to get above them with the wind direction, so I made my stalk from below them. I moved within 97 yards from the boulders they were bedded behind, with one problem: the hill was so steep that if the rams went out the same way they came in, I wouldn't have a shot until they were 350 yards out. So now, I'm moving back downhill to get in a better position. I went down the hill about 350 yards and started side hilling to get a position where I could see all their escape routes, moving 1 step at a time and glassing their bedding area, trying to see one of the rams. I finally could see 1 ram, and he was looking straight down the hill in my direction, so I slowly tried to kneel down while watching the ram through my binoculars, and actually fell over slightly out of view of the ram; I'll call it clumsy success. I sat still for a few minutes thinking the ram had to have seen me, but he didn't get up. I kept glassing him, and when he turned to look up the canyon, I slid out of his view. I was able to move back uphill within 225 yards of the rams, and had all their escape routes covered, with the maximum distance being 250 yards. I got set up on a flat rock, angled uphill perfectly, where I could shoot off the short bi-pod with my sitting pad under the rear of the stock; a perfect dead rest. Elk season was on in full swing, and while I was waiting for the rams to get up, a vehicle drove in on an old 2-track road below me about 300 yards, and I knew they were going to spook the rams. They drove by and never saw me, and the rams never got up.

A few minutes later, they came back by, and this time, the guy stopped and glassed me, then drove off; still, the rams did not get up. By this time, I had been sitting on the rams for about 3 hours. Then, another truck came down the road and the same thing happened; the truck turned around, came back by, and the rams stayed bedded. Now 5 hours waiting, I looked down and 2 guys were walking down the road; luckily one of them saw me, and looked at me with his glasses, so I motioned with my hand to my head the curl of a ram, and pointed up the hill and waved them back. To my surprise, he gave me a hand signal back of thumbs up,

and they both turned around and walked back the way they came, not spooking the rams. I have to be honest, the thumbs up wasn't the hand signal I expected. I don't know who these good sportsmen were, but it gives me hope for us sportsmen, after all. Finally, 6 ½ hours after I started my stalk, the smallest ram stood up and started milling around, moved towards me about 20 yards and side hilled to my right, then the next ram got up and walked straight to me, but I couldn't tell if he was the big one until he turned to follow the first ram. Then, Flare stood up and even straight-on, there was no doubt. He came to the edge of the rock ledge, turned towards the other rams, put his front legs out to stretch, and gave me a perfect 225 yard dead-rest shot.

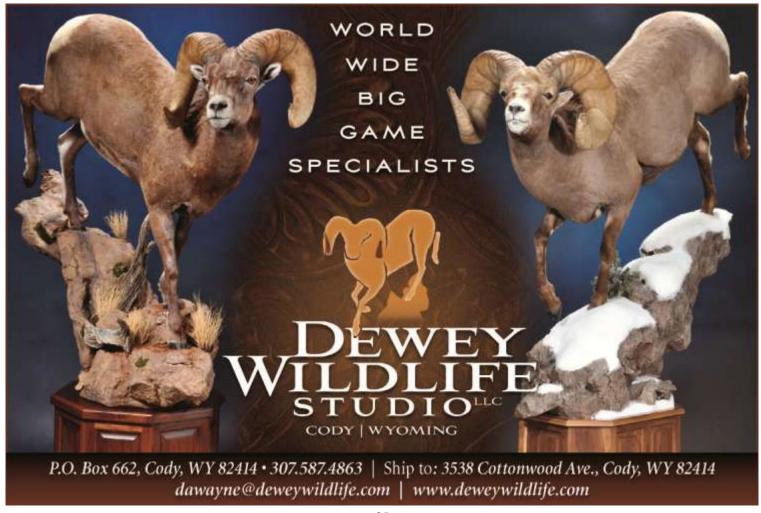
After the recoil of the gun settled, all I could see was his legs in the air, kicking. I climbed up hill, circled above him, peeked over the ledge, and my first thought was what a dumb @#\$& for passing this ram in September; no ground shrinkage here! After rough scoring him I determined he was a mid-170 ram, exactly what I wanted. I gutted the ram and positioned him so he would cool that night, and headed to camp to give everyone the good news and get some help packing him out. Adam and Rory drove down that night, and we packed him out the next day. Jeff Muratore caped and scored my ram; he grossed 176 7/8". I wish Adam, Jeremiah, Rory, and Jeff could have been with me when I got my chance at this ram, but I know they all had a great time scouting and hunting with me when they could, and I appreciate all the hours they spent hiking and glassing for my trophy. We never saw the Chunk ram again; I hope he wintered well and produced some offspring!











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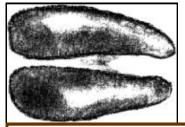
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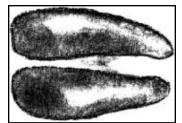


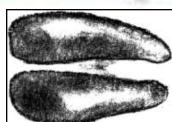


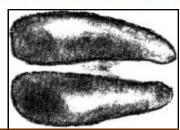
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The leader in digital mapping has added WY to the list of states with landowners' names

## WY-PLAT4GPS

## Map Features:

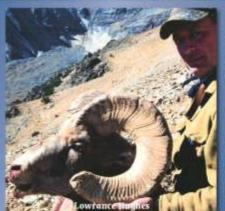
- Public Lands w/ Unique Colors
   State, BLM, National Forests, etc.
   PLAT book data
  - - Landowners' names w/ Property Boundaries = 24K Topo

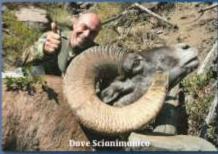
      - Hunting Zones
      - Township-Range-Section
      - Roads
      - city, Hwy, & backroads
    - Water
      - creeks, rivers, lakes, etc.
    - Trails
    - And much more...

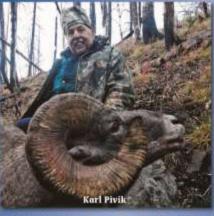
And it's all right in the palm of your hand!

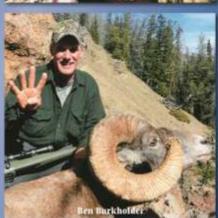
# **Hunt Wyoming Bighorn Sheep**

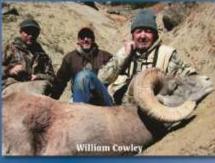










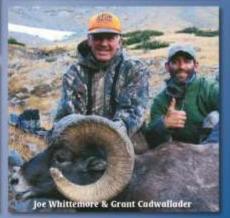












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#### "A Long Hunt Creates More Memories – So I Count Myself Lucky"

Ed Mignery – Sundance, WY Wyoming Game & Fish Commissioner and Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation Life Member #366

How can a brief write-up do justice to 26 days of sheep hunting in Wyoming's rugged bighorn sheep HA-3? It can't be done, at least by this author, so here are some of the high points that may in part convey the essence of my great 2012 hunting experience:

**Act I:** The first 10 days of my hunt was in early September: hot weather, smoky conditions & difficult scoping/ spotting, with an occasional assortment of "timber-rat" rams that did not want to cooperate...great summer camping, never a fire in the tents except for cooking, great hikes and horseback rides in the Absaroka Mountain wilderness...loved every minute of it...but that wasn't gonna harvest my ram! My ideal ram had no size or measurement goal, but was simply to be a heavy, mature & well-broomed representative of the species; a battle-scarred guy to mount right next to my 1991 WY HA-5 mid-160s ram, with good genetics, but still in lamb tips and little brooming.

**Act II:** I don't own horses, so I can afford a guided hunt every few years. Lost Creek Outfitters offered me the flexibility and a commitment to my success, so I returned to the hunt in mid-October. In Acts I & II, I visited 14 drainage basins, observed approximately 47 rams and in the neighborhood of 120 ewes and lambs, but had continued difficulty finding the "shooter" ram: long stalks on now empty pockets, non-shooters instead of "my ram", rams pursued by other hunters one step ahead of us, etc. etc.; our luck was just plain bad!

Keep the chin up, keep the body going, don't injure yourself ...so much time and effort to this point...keep going just one more day, don't disappoint yourself and your guide...find your ram! Suddenly, the 16<sup>th</sup> and final day of Act II had arrived. Time goes fast when you are having a great time with a good companion and guide, and that I certainly had in Will Loeper of Lost Creek Outfitters.

It was October 31, Halloween, the last day of the hunting season and still no ram...a band of rams are spotted in Bobcat Creek as the sun came up! Let's go! But a guide and his hunter are leaving the trailhead just as we arrive. Let's still go, and let things fall where they may...we were certainly after the same rams. We finished a close 2nd to guide Josh Martoglio and his hunter Charlie in our pursuit of those Bobcat Creek rams. After passing on the to guide Josh Martoglio and his hunter Charlie in our pursuit of those Bobcat Creek rams. After passing on the three buddy rams of the fallen ram, we helped Josh and Charlie with their ram, took photos for them, and then departed to lick our wounds, and hunt the final hours.

The final hours: To go home with no ram rather than any ram was now the probable and accepted outcome of my long hunt ... I'd been mentally preparing myself the last couple days for this result. We were taking a break on the horse trail and doing some half-hearted scoping when Josh and Charlie came upon us on their triumphant trip down the mountain. Suddenly, the conversation halts as Josh spots a small ram stepping into an opening in the heavy burned timber below... three rams are spotted in heavy timber, and finally a heavy, well-broomed ram comes into the clear at 300 yards. Josh and Will work cooperatively as a team, and get me into the best available location and shooting position. The shot connects, the sheep is down, and it is almost 4:00 PM on October 31, the final day of the season. What a chain of events, what a team effort, and most important and impressive; what great respect and cooperation between two "competing guides"!

Greg & Karla Turner, and Will Loeper, and now Josh Martoglio...Thanks for the memories, and for helping me connect on a great trophy ram, as a little icing on my cake! In advance, no one could have written the script for the final scene of Act II of this memorable hunting adventure. A healthy measure of good luck always helps to make a successful hunt! This adventure "really" was, the hunt of my lifetime!!

### Eric Cubin, Casper, WY (2012 Hunt Area 4)

Incredibly, I had the good fortune of drawing a Wyoming Hunt Area 4 bighorn sheep license with only 5 points. In truth, I hadn't really done my homework when I applied, because I never dreamed that I would be lucky enough to draw one of the very few random draw tags. I have several friends who have taken sheep in Area 4, so, that was good enough for me and I put in. Because of my hectic work schedule, I didn't feel like I had the time or resources to scout and hunt on my own. I decided to go with Corey Fischer, owner of Crandall Creek Outfitters. That is one of the few choices I've ever made that I will never regret! Corey hooked me up with guide John Riley, who was outstanding.

As an avid bowhunter, I wanted to try to get my sheep with a bow. Twenty minutes into the **first morning of the bowhunt, we spotted a good ram that we estimated to be in the 160"** class, in a very stalkable location, under a cliff. After training for 3 months and buying a pile of new gear, ending my hunt on the first morning seemed anti-climactic. We decided to let him go – **probably shouldn't have done that!** 

That night, as I laid in bed thinking about the ram that I had passed up, a familiar feeling started to come over me. Nature calling! There was grizzly bear sign all around our camp, and we had seen 2 grizzlies within a quarter mile of camp that morning. **Needless to say, I wasn't** very excited about leaving the tent in the middle of the night, for any reason. Ultimately, **though, I couldn't wait any longer and I decided to go.** I pulled my boots on, grabbed my .44 Magnum, and put my headlamp on. **I got up and didn't turn my headlamp on until I was just** outside the tent. Much to my surprise, when I did turn the headlamp on, I caught a flash of movement in the darkness out of the corner of my eye. As I turned to my left, there before me, right in camp, no more than 30 feet away, was a grizzly bear. He was squared off and looking right at me. Needless to say, I had never really been in this situation before. I literally **had a .44 Magnum in one hand and my \*&%# in the other. The problem was that I'm left** handed and the .44 was in my right hand! Fortunately, the bear decided to spin around and made haste out of camp rather than to teach me a painful lesson.

We bowhunted 6 more days and never saw another ram. Finally, John spotted a group of 11 rams about 5 miles away on top of the Shoshone Plateau. There was only one day left before bowseason ended and rifle season began. We made the difficult decision to pack up camp and move to where we could be right on top of the rams on opening morning.

Opening morning of rifle season came, and the weather had taken a major turn for the worse. A huge storm had moved in, bringing ridiculous winds. It drizzled, sleeted, and/or snowed all day. **Right after daylight, the biggest black bear I've ever seen took out across the** plateau, right in front of our horses. I had a bear tag in my pocket, but I was there to hunt sheep, and I elected not to take him. We hunted as long as we could that day but, admittedly, packed it up a little early because it was so miserable.

I woke up the second morning of rifle season expecting more of the same. Much to my surprise, the storm had broken and the skies were clear. John and I made our way to the end of the plateau where we had seen the sheep. We started glassing. I was on one side of a point and he was on the other. After about 20 minutes I looked over, and John was frantically waving





at me. I made my way over to him and he told me that he had spotted the rams, and that they were in range (relatively speaking) over the edge of the rocks where we were standing. I took a second to get myself together and leaned over the rock. Sure enough, the ram that I was after was laying on the other side of the bowl from where we were, WAY below us. John told me that the sheep were at 414 yards. I had had a Tikka T3 .270 WSM customized specifically for this hunt by Matt Mosteller in Casper, Wyoming. I knew the rifle was good to 800 yards, if I needed it to be. I dialed the scope to 400 yards and held at the bottom of the sheep. With one tiny squeeze on the light trigger, the sheep took a nasty fall several hundred yards with a bullet in his spine. I knew I should aim low for steep uphill or downhill shots, but I couldn't believe how low I had to actually aim for this one.

We loaded up the horses and were able to take them all the way to where the ram was down. We took pictures, then loaded the ram onto the horses. Because the horses were loaded down, we had to lead them all the way back to camp rather than ride them. I have to say, with that sheep in tow, that was the easiest 7 mile, high-mountain jaunt I've ever taken. When it was all said and done, John and I had spent 9 days, covered more than 110 mountain miles on horseback, walked countless miles, moved camp 3 times, and made memories that will last forever!

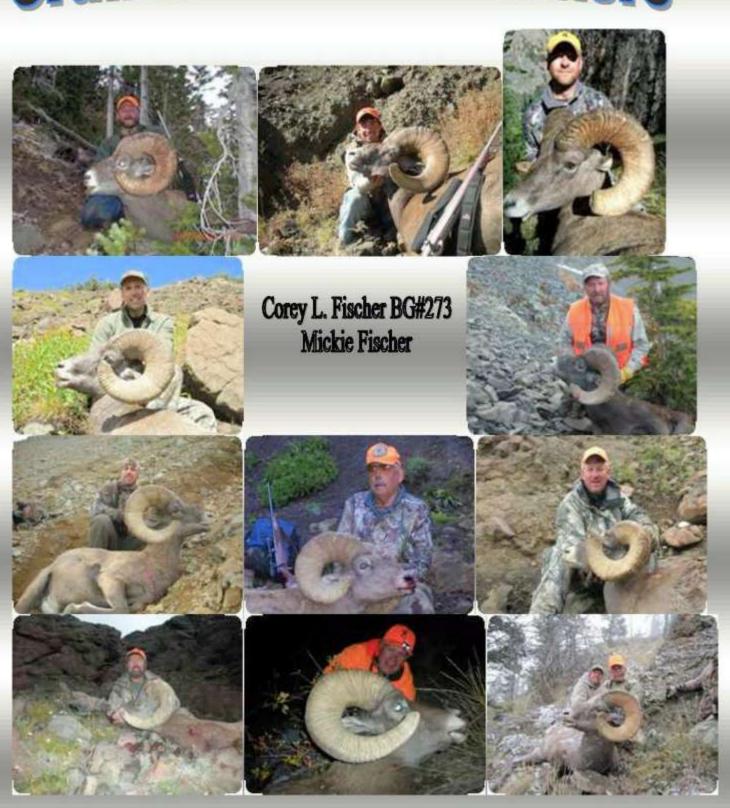
#### Mickie Fischer & Mike Brownell Head South of the Border for Desert Bighorn Rams

Known to Crandall Creek Outfitters as the M & M connection, fellow WY-WSF members Mickie Fischer and Mike Brownell (Life Member #224) just returned from Cabo San Lucas, Mexico where they both harvested beautiful desert rams with Ty Miller's EI Fuerte Outfitters. Family member Corey Fischer accompanied these 2 gentlemen on their desert ram hunts. For Mickie, this completed his Full Curl. For Mike, he is ¾ of the way to his 2<sup>nd</sup> Full Curl; he hopes to achieve the final leg in 2014.

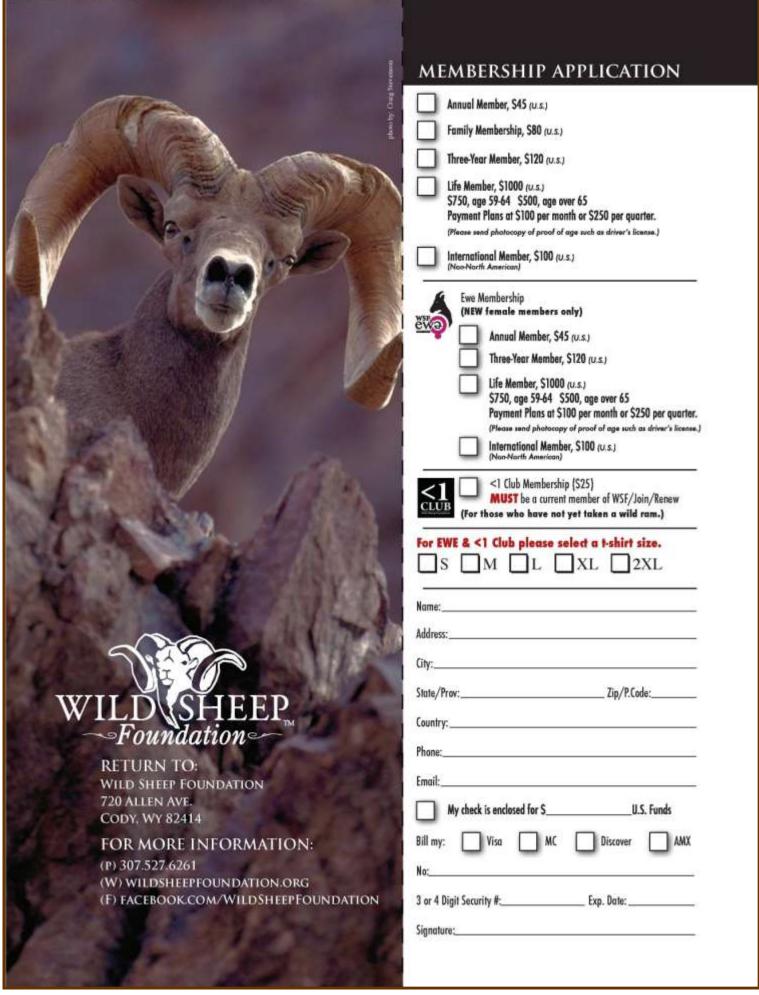
The 2 hunters were placed in separate spike camps based out of La Paz and Laredo, Baja Mexico. The terrain was tough, and proved to be a challenge much rougher than ever realized. Ty's guides were excellent and knew sheep very well. Along with 4 Mexican guides, Mickie was accompanied by his son Corey (Crandall Creek Outfitters). In Mike's camp, he too had 4 Mexican guides, along with fellow Outfitter Dustin Roe of Backcountry BC and Beyond and Cole Kramer of Kramer's Kodiak Guide Service. Mickie's ram was 14 ½ X 32, heavily-broomed, with a green score of 156 3/8s; Mike's ram was 14 ½ X 34, flared widely, and green-scored 158 6/8.







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3	Dave Steger	52	John Zenz	99	David Connor	148	Jim Gibbs
4	Don Schmalz	53	Jesse Troutman	100	Joe DeCora	149	Stephen K. Martin
5	Harry Whyel	54	Tom Sauter	101	Elaine B. Benton	150	Tom Trapp
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7	Gene Hardy	56	Mike Crocker	103	Jeffrey Adam Milton	152	Chancy Brown
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16	Keith West	65	Randall K.	112	Bernard R. Harvey	160	R. Mark LeFaivre
17	Lud Kroner		Edgeington	113	Terry Davis	161	Mark Bruscino
18	Serge d'Elia	66	Michael J. Thompson	114	Tom Christiansen	162	Chip Mooneyham
19	Terry Marcum	67	Dan Coletti	115	Dave W. Daigle	163	Betsy Grainger
20	Kevin Hurley	68	Douglas Liller	116	Keith Dana	164	James T. Grainger
21	Craig Pitters	69	Ron Elkin	117	John Coulter	165	Kristen E. Grainger
22	Sam Pancotto	70	Tom Spawn	118	Joseph Konwinski	166	Lauren L. Grainger
23	Vincent Allegra	71	Bruce John	119	Bill Skelton	167	Bob Barlow
24	Dirk Edgeington		Thompson	120	Ron Pomeroy	168	Bill Rouse
25	Cindy Reynolds	72	Robert Sherd	121	Jeffrey A. Keim	169	Robert L. Mills
26	Fred Mau	73	Larry Brannian	122	Gretchen Hurley	170	Cindy Spriggs
27	David S. Luzmoor	74	Dan Gay	123	Terry Janssen	171	Tony Spriggs
28	Craig Kling	75	Ron Lockwood	124	Lenore Smith	172	Mack Miller
29	Sam Green	76	Scott Bushnell	125	Joe Vollmer	173	Cody Brown
30	Cole Benton	77	Jim Smith	126	Dennis Claman	174	Allen Kerkhove
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44	Lynn Stewart	91	Rusty Gooch	140	Robert Joslin	188	Robert Finn
45	Russ Green	92	Todd Alley	141	Ken Metzler	189	Mike Pilch
46	Truman A. Wilkin	93	John Wilson	142	Gary Lease	190	Mark Virant
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195	John W. Harris	244	Vonnie Stinnette	293	Daniel Clifton	340	Kade Benton
196	Cort Feeley (D)	245	Cindy Collins	294	James Creaser	341	Bill Richards
197	Brian McKay	246	John Baughman	295	Bobbi Troutman	342	Gray Thornton
198	Mike Milton	247	Joni Miller	296	Tara Troutman	343	Ruth Esperance
199	John Stevenson	248	Darin Hubble	297	George Joest	344	Will Garroutte
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201	Curtis D. Townsend	250	Robert C. Borgialli	299	Scott Heny	346	Greg Parrott
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218	Steve Shivy	266	Tom Easterly	315	Randy Hopp	363	Brad Morlock
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220	Curt Shatzer	268	Jess Dingman	317	Brian Gee	365	Keith Stansell
221	Wayne Fisher	269	Patrick Mooney	318	Page Mays	366	Ed Mignery
222	Charles LaPorte	270	Wade Alexander	319	Vance Diggins	367	Rick Pallister
223	Jerry Galles	271	Shelby Martin	320	Carl Shores	368	Darryl Williams
224	Michael L. Brownell	272	Dan Merrill	321	Mark Hampton	369	Scott Talbott
225	Rosemary Gooch	273	Rod Litzel	322	Dave Skaggs	370	Patricia Stansell
226	Greg Larsen	274	Brad Borgialli	323	Michael J. Porter	371	
227	Kerry Fischer	275	Shane Hampshire	324	Mike Brown	372	
228	Julie Fischer	276	Jeff Shelley	325	Daryl Lutz	373	
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230	Gary Butler	278	Art Anderson	327	Richard W.	375	Nila Clifton
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232	M. Shawn Nelson	280	David Todd	328	Tom Nordeen	377	
233	Allen Mooney	281	Loren Kohnen	329	Adrian G. Gonzalez	378	
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235	Don South	283	Larry Thoney	331	Luis A. Chapa	380	Gage Porter
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238	Connie Meyer	287	William S. Trapp	334	Meade Dominck		
239	Justin Poppe	288	Mark "Jake" Carter	335	David Hubbs		
240	Kale Benton	289	Randall Kresie	336	Larry Mauriello, Jr.		
241	Jason Teeples	290	Justin Trail	337	Jose L. Mallo		
242	Steve Kozisek	291	Jay Wolfenden	338	Ryan Fischer		
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### Mark Your Calendars!

Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation Summer Meeting
May 31—June 1, 2013

Parkway Plaza, Casper, WY

Details inside - See Pages 6-15!!

### Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation P.O. Box 666, Cody, WY 82414



http://www.wyomingwildsheep.org



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