



Wyoming Chapter

Foundation for
North American

Wild Sheep



Number 1

Winter 1999

Volume 7



Membership Application



**Help Support The Wild Sheep
Join the Wyoming Chapter Today!**

- YES, I want to help "Put Sheep on the Mountain." Enclosed is my check.
- \$15 for One-Year Membership
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*All figures in U.S. Funds
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David Luzmoor, 1010 Washakie Avenue, Green
River, WY 82935

REWARD!

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



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

Freddie L. Goetz
Box 603
Wheatland, WY 82201

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ELECTION RESULTS

Elections were held at the winter meeting December 6, 1998 in Casper. Listed below are your Officers and Director and how to reach them

- President: Jim Collins
Sand Creek Ranch
Alcova, WY 82620
307-234-9597
Term Exp. 12/2000
- Vice-President: Cole Benton
1230 Norma Dr.
Bufflalo, WY 82834
307-736-2277
Term Exp. 12/2000
- Secretary: David Luzmoor
1010 Washakie Ave.
Green River, WY 82935
307-872-6556 Day
307-875-6566 Home
307-872-6510 Fax
Term Exp. 12/2000
- Treasurer: Jay Reddon
111 North Third East
Riverton, WY 82501
307-856-4816 Day
307-856-7535 Fax
Term Ex. 12/2000
- Director: Dennis Claman
P.O. Box 192
Farson, WY 82932
307-273-5054
Term Exp. 12/1999
- Director: Dirk Edgeington
Box 1352
Dubois, WY 82513
307-273-5054
Term Exp 12/2000
- Director: Kevin Hurley
356 Nostrum Rd.
Thermopolis, WY 82443
307-864-9375
Term Exp 12/2000
- Director: Fritz Meyer
Box 5
Dubois, WY 82513
307-455-2464
Term Exp. 12/1999
- Director: Lynn Stewart
Box 631
Dubois, WY 82513
307-455-3549
Term Exp. 12/2000

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


Whiskey Mt. ram cover photo by: Deb Rosinette, Dubois

Wyoming Life Membership Soars!

The Wyoming Chapter after setting a pace of two life members per year for the first 8 years, life memberships were available, the Wyoming Chapter has averaged nearly 20 lifers per year for the last two years. This great support from our members has made the life member trust fund for bighorn projects of nearly \$20,000. The interest from these funds are earmarked for Wyoming Sheep projects, and now add up to a sizable amount to help with our fund raising each year.

Lifemember support is adding up, won't you add your name to this list of great Wyoming Chapter supporters?

Wrangell R Ranch



Ray McNutt
Masterguide
and Outfitter

P.O. BOX CZN, Tok, AK 99780
907-734-7373
907-734-5678 FAX

Past Chairman - Alaska Guide Board

WINTER ADDRESS: Box 222475, Anchorage, AK 99522
907-349-8159 • FAX: 907-349-1868

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

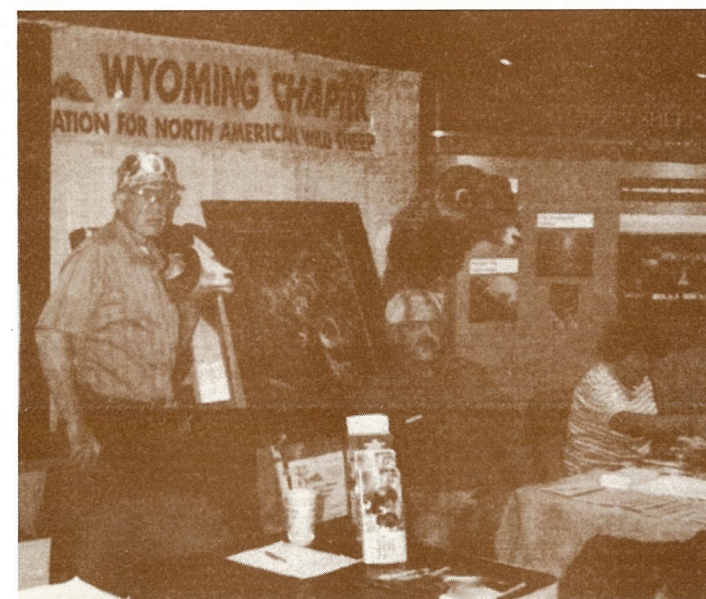
"The time it took for the earth's human population to grow to its first billion was two million years. The time it will take for the next billion, is 11 years" - John B Sparks, Rand McNally Map of World History



Chapter Makes Commitment For Higher Profile

With the purchase of a professional booth, the Chapter has made the commitment to having a presence at more sports shows. Starting this month we will be at the Casper Sport Show and have already made plans to be at the second annual G&F Hunting and Fishing Expo in Casper, September 10 -12, 1999. These two shows as well as the winter convention and the National FNAWS Convention in Reno will make a marked increase for Chapter Exposure.

There is a need to educate the public on FNAWS and hunters role in protecting habitat, and the animals we hunt. With this Chapter exposure we hope to start this education process.




Wyoming Chapter Booth at 1998 G&F Expo. Manned by Kevin Hurley, Director Dennis Claman and Secretary Nancy Collins.

1894 BIGHORNS HAVE BEEN TRAPPED AT WHISKEY BASIN. 1589 TRANSPLANTED IN WYO, 389 OUT OF STATE.

WYOMING HUNTING & FISHING HERITAGE '99 EXPO

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SUMMER PH./FAX
306-547-4477

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



ATTENTION! WYOMING CHAPTER RAFFLE

A 1999 Wyoming Game & Fish Commissioner licence (Given by Commissioner Mike Hunzie) good for elk, deer, or antelope will be raffled off, with the drawing August 1, 1999.

This license is in addition to any other license drawn or purchased for 1999. License good for resident or nonresident, with the winner designating the specie, and license area and type.

Tickets are \$10.00 each and are limited to 1000. Drawing will be held August 1, regardless of number of tickets sold.

THIS IS YOUR CHANCE AT THAT LICENSE YOU CAN'T DRAW! WITH ALL PROCEEDS HELPING OUR BIGHORNS!

To purchase tickets or further information contact:

David Connor, 1625 West Pershing, Riverton, WY 82501, 307-856-9590



Chapter Secretary and lifemember David Luzmoor with outstanding ram taken with Fritz Meyer, Wind River Mountain Outfitters, Sept. 1998 Area 10



Guide Mike Wakkuri & Jim Cabella with Area 3 ram taken on Governors license the Chapter Auctioned. Congratulations Jim!

WYOMING CHAPTER ANNOUNCES 1999 WINTER MEETING SITE CHANGE!

THE CASPER RADDISON will host the Winter Banquet in 1999 & 2000. With the same great facilities we enjoyed this year the plan is for two more fun and successful fund raisers. Plans are being made for the seminars, with wine tasting, a seminar on the political threats to our hunting rights and a two hour seminar on our sheep herds and ongoing projects. New this year we are working to get the Kip Attaway to perform after the auction. Kip has entertained at the National FNAWS Convention the last two years and will be a great addition to our program. With the great response of our members to Lamplighter Lodge having a booth and the outfitter visiting with you in person, we have expanded the outfitter booths this year. Come early and visit with the outfitters on that dream hunt.

Make plans to join the fun!



President's Thoughts

Most of our membership is aware of the danger commingling of domestic sheep and bighorns bring. Many of the major bighorn die offs can be traced to at least a possibility of commingling and the subsequent passing of *Pasteurella bacteria* to bighorns. Enclosed in this newsletter is a pamphlet put out by National FNAWS on this problem. Your Chapter has been working since the winter convention, on a domestic sheep allotment waiver to the Forest Service, for the benefit of bighorn sheep. This action will help minimize potential conflict with the Whiskey Mountain herd.

We have negotiated a complex deal to give the Whiskey Mountain herd an additional 12 air miles of buffer between bighorns and domestics. The Chapter was asked to undertake these negotiations because of our interest in bighorns, as well as our strong multiple use stance. As always being pro multiple use and strong advocates for bighorns is a perilous tight rope act.

This was the first of these forest allotment waivers done in Wyoming for bighorns and the Chapter worked hard to "do it right". We knew from the start that all affected permittees would have to completely support any waiver. Early on in this negotiation, we also decided that all other affected agencies would be notified and asked for their input, including the Governors office, Woolgrowers, Forest Service, WY Game & Fish, and the Sublette County Commissioners. We asked each of the above for input and their concerns in the course of these negotiations, and took into consideration their feed back. The Chapter

feels we have set a precedent that is the correct way these waivers should be done in the future. When willing permittees come forward, in areas that have great potential of protecting our bighorns, WY FNAWS will respond.

The Chapter membership needs to familiarize themselves with this issue! (See detail of agreement on page 4.) Needless to say, these waivers are very expensive. To what extent should your board make this a priority, compared to habitat, transplants, education? A few of these waivers over the next decade could be done with little interruption of our perceived future needs and upcoming projects. But, at what point does the Chapter balance domestic and bighorn conflicts with other priorities when our fund raising has been stretched to the point of making this decision necessary?

Your new board is in place and looking forward to the tasks ahead in "Putting more Bighorns on Wyoming's mountains". Please feel free to contact your Board and let your feelings be known, and plan on attending all upcoming Board meetings.

On a personal note, I would like to thank my mother, Nancy Collins, for serving the Chapter as Secretary for the last two years. With the growth of our Chapter this is getting to be an overwhelming job, and she spent hundreds of hours seeing the Chapters business done. Also, I would like to thank my wife Cindy, for feeding nearly 800 head of cattle by herself, while I ran around with the negotiations for this sheep allotment waiver.

-Jim Collins

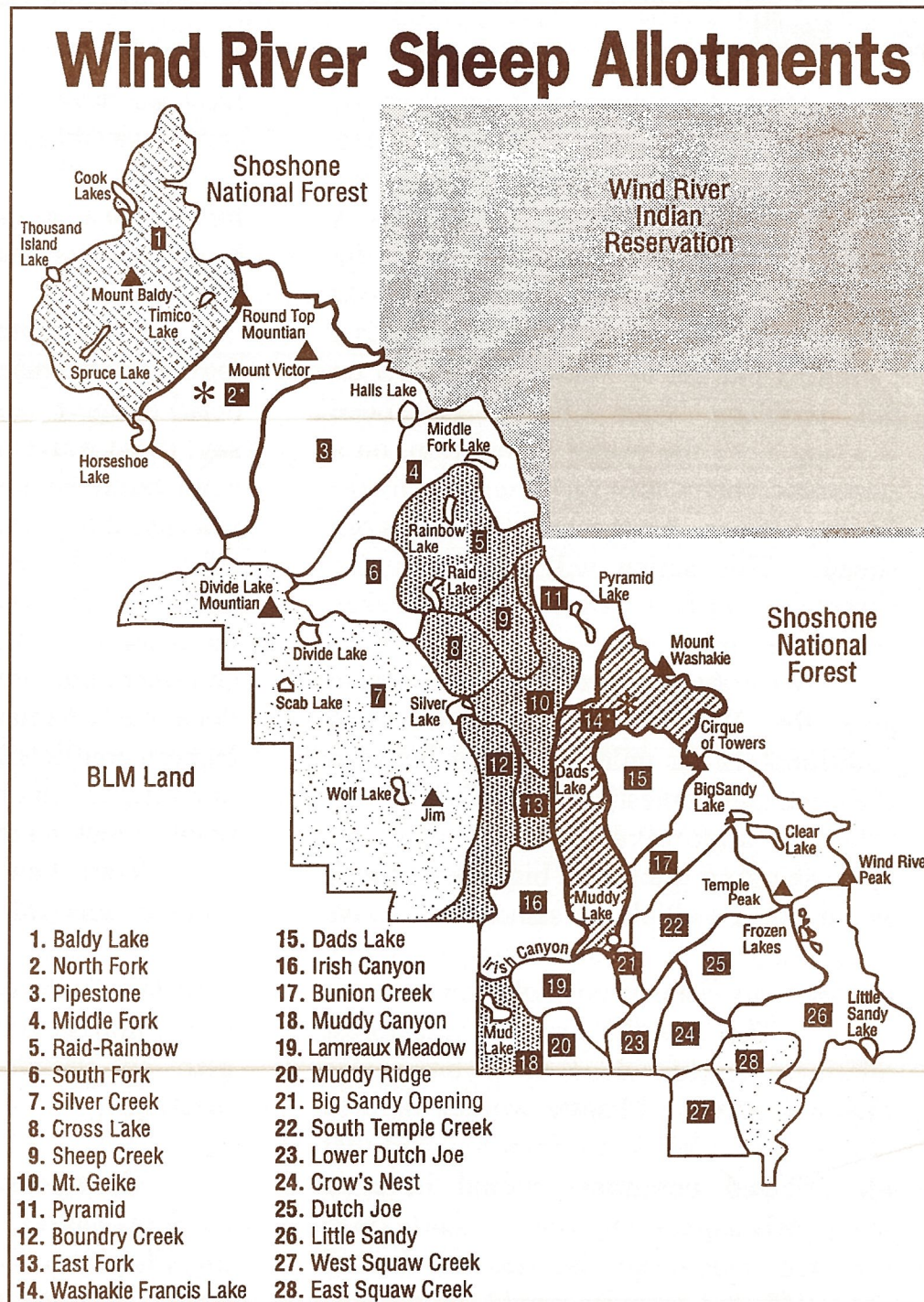
CHAPTER NEGOTIATES BUFFER ZONE FOR WHISKEY MOUNTAIN BIGHORN HERD

The Wyoming Chapter has successfully negotiated a forest allotment waiver, in the Bridger Wilderness, back to the Forest Service. Under the agreement, allotments 1&2 would be set aside for a bighorn sheep buffer zone as well as watershed protection and other wildlife interests.

In precedent setting negotiations for Wyoming bighorns, the Wyoming Chapter has gained 12 additional air miles between domestic sheep and the summer range of the Whiskey Mountain bighorns. It is hoped that this additional distance will lower the chance of domestics and bighorns commingling and thus lower the chance that *Pasteurella* could be spread to the Whiskey Mountain herd.

Under this agreement, the Chapter would compensate the current permittee to give up his usage in allotment #14, (Washakie Francis Lake). Then, the permittee in allotment #2 (North Fork) would move his usage to the Washakie Francis Lake allotment. This would vacate allotments 1&2, and with the USFS following the NEPA process, would allow for the area to be designated for wildlife usage.

The Wyoming Chapter has requested help on this project from Nat. FNAWS (\$10,000) and the MI/WI & Eastern Chapters (\$3000). The Eastern Chapter has already OK'D \$3000 for the project. Leaving the WY Chapters share at \$17825, to complete the waiver.



Allotment map of southern Wind River Mountains. Allotment 1&2 will be assigned for bighorn sheep usage, with agreement Chapter made. Allotment 14 is the allotment the Chapter compensation permittee for and moved the current permittee of allotment 2 to this allotment, thus gaining 12 more air miles buffer zone for bighorns. Map courtesy of Deanne Swain and Pinedale Roundup.

Encampment (Area 21) (BHS 519)

Revision Date: 4/17/98

Population Estimate: 40 (post season 1997)

Population Objective: 200

Most Recent Hunting Regulations: CLOSED

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

JCR Responsibility: Steve Loose

Other Contacts: Gary Brown, Joe Bohne, Bill Rudd, Tin Thomas (WGFD), Tom Rinkes, Larry Apple (BLM)

**Previous Studies: Haas (1979)
Arnett (1990)
Cook (1990)**

Transplant History:

1976 Transplant - 52 sheep released in Encampment River Canyon - Haas (1979), Cook (1990)
1977 Transplant - 17 sheep released in Encampment River Canyon - Haas (1979), Cook (1990)
1989 Transplant - 19 sheep released in Encampment River Canyon - Cook (1990)
1992 - 1 adult ram was released on Soldier Creek. This ram came from near Alcova and was last seen on Hallick Ridge just south of I-80.

Total - 89 sheep released into herd unit - All transplants summarized in Hurley (1996)

Problems:

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

Domestic Sheep - Snowy's - domestic sheep, More domestics in Sierra Madres-higher potential for contact

Predation -

Genetics -

Disease - Chlamydia

Migration - Lack of altitudinal migration

Herbivore Competition - Cattle grazing on both sides of the Encampment River Canyon - also large elk numbers which graze on sheep habitat (spring /summer/fall and winter

range)

Recreation/Development Encroachment -

Poor/Inconsistent Classification Data - Classified incidental to other surveys

Hunting Related -

Other -

This is the third in a series of bighorn herd unit reviews, as with the last two, we are reviewing one native and one transplanted herd.

Jackson (Area 7) (BHS107)

Revision Date: 4//17/98

Population Estimate: 530 (post season 1997)

Population Objective: 500

Most Recent Hunting Regulations: 20 licenses any sheep

Current WGFD Managers: Doug Brimeyer, Gary Fralick, Doug Crawford, Dallas Jenkins

JCR Responsibility: Doug Brimeyer

Other Contacts: Adrian Villaruz (USFS), Garvice Roby (WGFD-Ret.)

Previous Studies:

- Honess and Frost (1942)
- Les McCann (1956)
- Buechner (1960)

Transplant History:

- 1934 Transplant - 20 sheep trapped in Flat Creek, released in Bighorn Mountains - Hurley (1996)
- 1980 Transplant - 14 sheep released at Stinking Springs - Roby (1980)
 - these sheep were destined for Darby Mtn., but weather conditions precluded their release there, so they were turned out at Stinking Springs
 - 11 sheep were released on Flat Creek

Total - 25 sheep released into herd unit

Problems:

- Habitat** - Habitat conditions (Willow Creek), lack of fire
- Domestic Sheep** - Yes, potential for contact on south end of herd unit
- Predation** -
- Genetics** - Scattered, isolated populations
- Disease** - Scabies at Camp Creek
- Migration** -
- Herbivore Competition** - Elk competition
- Recreation/Development Encroachment** - Snow machine disturbance
 - Encroachment on winter range - Stinking Springs
- Poor/Inconsistent Classification Data** -
- Hunting Related** -
- Other** - Recent overwinter mortality

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Two Rams in One Day

May, that wonderful month for Wyoming Big Horn Sheep enthusiasts. Tags are out for a few lucky hunters. I soon heard from two good friends, Jesse Troutman from Buffalo and Fred Mau from Cheyenne. They both drew Area 5 tags. Both were very excited about drawing, but had three questions. Where are the sheep, will you take me, and when can we go?

Due to a caribou hunt with my son Tyler, I was not able to go opening week. I explained this to Fred and Jesse and both said "we'll wait for you." As soon as I returned from the Northwest Territories, I called Jesse and we immediately grabbed our camp tender, horses, mules, groceries, equipment, and headed for Meeteetse. We packed the mules and saddled our horses at the trailhead on the Greybull River and headed upcountry. Packing in 13 miles, we hardly had camp set up and the horses picketed when the rain set in and it turned dark. After eating a good steak supper, we turned in. Those cots sure felt good.

We awakened to fog, snow up high, and elk in camp with our livestock. After eating a good breakfast and graining the horses and mules, the fog started to lift, so Jesse and I started glassing for sheep. Within three hours of camp we were on five rams in the timber. Three definitely were small, one a maybe, the fifth questionable. Too much thick timber to tell. All of a sudden they exploded. Yep, that fifth one was a dandy, and GONE. We returned to camp, better luck tomorrow.

The following morning we headed in to some different country. We had walked about two hours when rams started coming over the top of a mountain above us. We watched 24 rams move across and into a hole. Jesse and I started climbing. It took over two hours of very steep and rocky work to get within 800 yards of the rams. We couldn't get any closer without being seen. Watching the rams for four more hours, it wasn't hard to pick out four dandies. At the same time, there were seven more rams across the canyon from us. Why worry about them when we had 24 right where we wanted them. Right?

Not hardly. When those rams finally moved, they went out where we couldn't get on them and they were gone. Stumbling into camp at 9:00PM in the dark, we hit the hay after a quick supper.

Unfortunately, at 11:00 our camp tender went into seizures and we had to go home the next morning without a sheep.

I called Fred Mau, told him what happened, and we reorganized. Terry Janssen met me at our ranch and said he would go in and take care of the camp and livestock so the three of us, Jesse, Fred, and myself could concentrate on sheep. We went as far as my cabin at Burgess Junction the first afternoon with the pickups and trailers. Awakening to 10" of snow, we caught the horses and mules, went down Shell Canyon in 4-wheel drive. We pulled into the trailhead about 11:00 that morning. Packing back up the Greybull River to our camp with ten head of horses and mules, it's now the 20th of September and time to get serious. We're no more in camp and the rain sets in. It rained all night.

We got up, ate breakfast, and made lunch. All of our horses and mules were happy to see their grain as we waited for the fog to lift. When it did, the snow was even lower this time. Let's go sheep hunting!



Jesse's area 5 ram

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Lifemember Keith West has been busy, but this pending new #4 Marco Polo killed at 17700' is his pride and joy!

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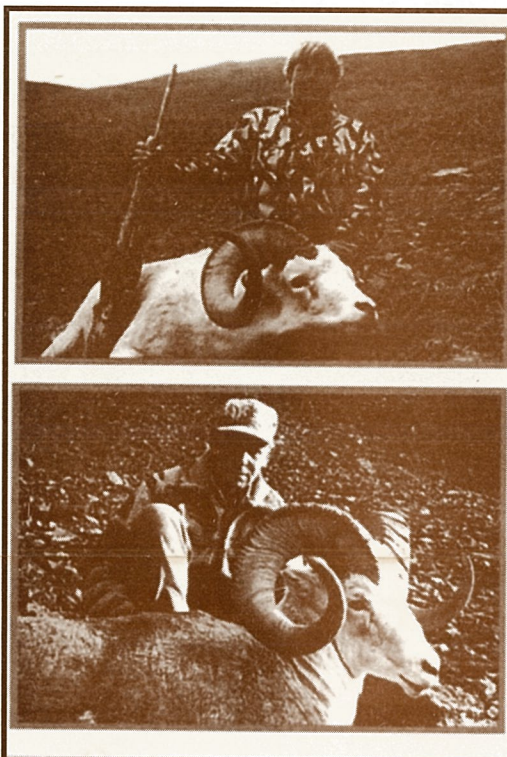
MTN. GOAT – CARIBOU – MOOSE – GRIZZLY

Leland Myles Bradford and Scott Murray Jackson, died November 6, 1998. They were killed in a single vehicle accident in Sundre, Alberta, Canada. Donations to the memorial scholarship fund may be sent to: GOABC, Box 94675, Richmond, B.C. Canada, V6Y 4A4
Miles and Sherry are Chapter Supporters!

Miles and Sherry have been donors to the Wyoming Chapter

\$59,578.00

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Super Fun Weekend To Be Held June 5&6 1999

The Wyoming Chapter annual summer meeting will be held June 4 thru 6th in Dubois. The Board and any interested members will meet Friday the 4th at 1:00 at the VFW lodge in Dubois. 8:00 AM, June 5th, we will start the general membership meeting with reports on funded and upcoming projects. This is your chance for input toward chapter funding and emphasis.

The general business meeting will follow to vote on funding projects and handle all other Chapter matters.

At 1:00 we will meet at the Dubois Gun Club for our annual shoot. This year we will try our hand at skeet, as well as rifle marksmanship. There will be a mens and ladies competition with prizes to the winners.

After the shoot we will meet at the rustic pines for dinner and to swap sheep



Chapter sponsored irrigation project at Trail Lake Meadow. This Chapter project as well as the petroglyphs along the way will be toured Sunday morning

stories.

Sunday will include a tour of the irrigation system and meadow restoration of the Trail Lake Meadow, as well as a tour of the petroglyphs of the area. **COME JOIN THE FUN.**
SEE YOU IN DUBOIS
JUNE 4,5, AND 6th

We weren't more than 20 minutes from camp when I glassed a ram. I put the Nikon spotting scope on him and soon picked up four more rams, with at least one being real good. Let's move! Sheep are content if undisturbed, but they still get up and move around. Two hours later of steep climbing, we peak over a steep cliff, and they are still standing there. They know something is wrong. One jumps into the timber and they are gone. The biggest ram, 300 yards facing straight away, SHOOT or it's over.



Jesse is confident, he squeezes the trigger. The ram drops, rolls, and hangs up in a tree. The other six rams didn't know where the shot came from. They spook. They should be gone, but instead, they come towards us. I'm whispering "take the last sheep, Fred, take him." He shoots, and two beautiful rams are down! What a once in a lifetime hunt.

We cleaned, caped, and hung up the two rams as high as we could get them from grizzlies, as we had seen signs earlier. The next day we took two mules and brought the sheep to camp. The following morning, September 23rd, we broke camp and headed home.

Both Jesse and Fred are now Life Members of Wyoming Chapter of FNAWS. A big thank-you to them for helping support our chapter and Big Horn Sheep

Cole D. Benton
Vice-President Wyo. FNAWS



Ronald Walter Ball

Ronald Walter Ball was born August 1, 1935 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He spent his youth on the AA ranch except for his school years. After he graduated, he joined the U.S. army.

In March of 1959 he married Dele Beachler and they began their marriage on the AA ranch. They have three children, Melanie, Jennifer, and Ronald Corbin Ball, as well as two grandchildren, all of Big Piney.

Ron had a powerful and Magnificent goal - to keep and improve the ranch so that he might pass it to his children as it was passed to him and his father before him. He worked hard for long years to accomplish this goal.

Ron is well known by his peers on Cottonwood for his good fences, working ditches and fine cattle. He was a wonderful husband, father, neighbor, and fine man. His word was as good as gold.

Ron was an outstanding hunter, an advocate for the Elk and Mule deer Foundations, but his great love was working for the WY Chapter FNAWS. Ron was a Chapter President or Officer for many years.

The Wyoming Chapter of the Foundation of North American Wild Sheep will miss Ron!



Kids and Bighorns: Together in Wind River Canyon

by

Kevin Hurley, Wyoming Game & Fish Department, Thermopolis

No two ways about it, January 7, 1995 was a big day. Early that morning, in front of a howling wind and under a dancing drop-net, Wyoming Game & Fish Department (WGFD) workers spread alfalfa and apple pulp on the slopes of the Whiskey Basin winter range, continuing a process begun two weeks prior. Tentatively, the first bighorns approached the tasty bait. Little by little, bolder each time, sheep moved further under the net. With the right number and mix of sheep, the net was dropped, starting 43 bighorns on their way to historic range in Wind River Canyon.

In a collaborative effort that can only be described as monumental, the Shoshone and Arapahoe tribes, tribal Fish & Game, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), WGFD, Burlington Northern Railroad, FNAWS and the Wyoming Chapter of FNAWS cooperated to make the first rail-assisted bighorn sheep transplant in the lower 48 states a reality.

One of the most unique contributions to this partnership effort involved fourth-grade students from Fort Washakie School on the Wind River Indian Reservation (WRIR) and fourth- and fifth-graders from Lucerne Elementary School north of Thermopolis. In the weeks preceding the sheep-trapping operation, Kathy Firchow of USFWS and Kevin Hurley of WGFD gave presentations at both schools, teaching students about bighorn sheep and discussing the upcoming trapping operation/transplant. Patterned after an award-winning "Adopt-an-Antelope" program on the WRIR, students at both schools submitted 22" X 5" original artwork, to be used on eight radiocollars for transplanted bighorns. Four winning designs from each school were selected, by either the students themselves or school district art teachers. Once the winners were selected, these young artists drew their colorful designs right on the radiocollars. Of the 43 sheep (32 ewes, 8 lambs, 3 yearling rams) released in Wind River Canyon that day, 8 adult ewes sported "designer" radiocollars, thanks to 8 talented young artists.

Besides contributing their artwork, students from both schools (and their parents) watched the release, along with a crowd estimated at over 300 people. To further cultivate interest on the part of these students, relocation data from these collared sheep have been routinely provided to both schools, so students can plot the whereabouts of these sheep. Important lessons on resource management, mapping skills, and bighorn sheep seasonal movements have been learned, and, hopefully, another generation of sheep enthusiasts has been secured. The Wyoming Chapter of FNAWS is pleased to have been a participant in this project, for sheep and for kids. We recognize the future of our wild sheep lies in very young hands.



Photo courtesy of: Thermopolis Independent Record



down the mountain for a better shot. The only descent from the ledge we were on was down a rock chute about 3 feet wide and 3-4 feet deep. Despite the difficulty of going down the chute, it did allow us to get closer while remaining hidden from view. Although closer, it would still be a longer shot than I wanted, so I decided to cross another rock ledge. Crossing the ledge would put me clearly in the open, but the morning shadow was still across the face of the mountain. I hoped that would keep the rams from spotting me. They finally crossed the ledge and was able to set up an easy 200 yard shot.

The three rams were still grazing in the same area, but appeared to be getting nervous. We figured they were ready to head for the cliffs, too. Bob, watching through binoculars, whispered, "Take your shot when you're ready." The large ram was wandering next to a rock outcropping, but was often behind it. Finally he moved into an open position beside the rock, and I took the shot. He spun around and ran onto the rocks. Although he was mortally wounded, I feared an adrenaline rush would enable him to make his way to the cliff edge. I knew if that happened, would not be able to get to him. I shot again. This time he tumbled head over heels onto the grassy area, and I knew he was down for good. My husband shook my hand and said, "Congratulations, hon, you got your sheep!" I've never been so excited!

We waited for a few minutes to let the two younger rams make their way out of the area. They never saw us. Confused, they came up the mountain toward us, passing within a few yards. It took us quite awhile to make our way down to the ram. We were ledge-locked and had to search for a route down. When we finally got to him, I was thrilled to see that he was a deep chocolate color, 7/8 curl ram. While he's not a record in any book, he's a record in mine! Only four and a half years old, he had obviously had some very good years and came from a good gene pool. I finally had

the ram I had worked so hard to get!



Cathy's area 23 ram taken 9/3/98

Chapter Offers Three Hands-on Projects for Summer of 1999

- 1) Second BYOH (bring your own horse) summer outing. Scheduled for July Chapter members are invited to tour the Baldy and North Fork allotments that have been vacated. Due to the Chapters just completed domestic sheep allotment waiver.
- 2) A work party is needed to help with water projects that we need to complete prior to the transplant in the Sweetwater Rocks
- 3) Second annual Weed Pull-en weekend to be held on the South Fork of the Shonone River out side Cody June 19th. The Chapter needs your help either pulling the Dalmation Toad Flax that is taking over the winter bighorn range or helping cook for the pullers after the pull. For information on the weed pull-en weekend Call Kevin Hurley 307-864-9375 or Cole Benton 307-736-2277

Details for the BYOH outing and the Water projects will be worked out and included in the summer meeting notice. For further information call Jim Collins 307-234-9597

Make Plans to Help Put More Sheep on the Mountain By doing Your Part on One or All the Hands on Project!



Second Chance Ram

by Cathy J. Flansburg

As I was going through the daily stack of mail one evening in May, 1998, I came across a bulky envelope from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department addressed to me. As I excitedly tore open the envelope, a Resident Bighorn Sheep license tumbled out, and I knew I had been given a second chance at a ram. I had drawn a license in 1986 for the same area, Area 23 near Pinedale, Wyoming, but despite a hard and demanding hunt, I was unsuccessful.

That May evening began the planning phase for my second hunt for Bighorn Sheep. It would be my husband, Bob's, sixth hunt in Area 23. He had two Bighorn Sheep of his own, and had accompanied my brother, Bill Miller, and our family friend, Tom Cheney, on successful hunts in the area. Our sons, Sky and Justin, participated in planning for the hunt, each encouraging me to use his newest rifle for my hunt. But after a great deal of consideration, I decided to hunt with my Winchester M77.270 which I had used for more than 20 years. It had served me well in my hunts for elk, deer, antelope and moose, and I knew I would be comfortable with it. I did, however, have a new 6 power Leupold scope that I received for Mother's Day, and Sky did talk me into some new bullets for the hunt. I would use Winchester 140 grain Fallsafes. I was set for the hunt. Now I only had to wait for September 1 to arrive.

We had hoped one or both of our sons would be able to accompany us on the hunt, but work schedules did not permit that. The hunt party would be Bob and me. After a horseback ride 15 miles into the Windriver Mountains, we set up our base camp the weekend before the season was to open and encouragingly spotted a few rams on a mountain near our camp. We used the day before the hunt to acclimate ourselves to the 1,000 foot altitude and do a little fishing in a

nearby lake.

Opening morning was a beautiful day. But despite the great weather and scouring the entire mountain top, we didn't see a single ram. I was so disappointed! Depressed and exhausted, I was sure this hunt would be a repeat of the previous hunt when I didn't see a single legal ram. The second day was only slightly better. Bob spotted four rams going over a far off ridge - too far away to even think about a stalk. And as we were returning to camp, I spotted three rams, but they were moving fast and didn't appear to be very big. At that late hour, a stalk to determine size wasn't a good idea.

The third day, we again made the arduous climb to the top of the mountain and began to glass the grassy benches down below. While I was glassing one area, Bob moved a little farther along the edge of the mountain. Soon he came back and whispered for me to follow him. Sitting on a rock ledge still in morning shadow, we watched five rams at treeline about 800 yards below us as they grazed among the trees. Two of the rams looked pretty good. Although we hoped they would get close enough to each other that we could compare them, it appeared that they were pretty equal. It was obvious they were at least 3/4 curl rams. Although my license was for any ram, I hadn't waited this long for a license and worked this hard to settle for anything less than a 3/4 curl. The big rams' coloring was a deep chocolate brown. The other three rams were young, less than 3/4 curl and tan in color. We continued to watch the two big rams, hoping they would work their way up to us. I knew I would be happy with either of them.

After about a half-hour, one of the big rams and a small ram made their way toward the cliff edge and went over. We knew once the rains went off the edge, I wouldn't have a chance of getting close to them. It was imperative that we move quickly and quietly



Wyoming Chapter FNAWS 1998 Winter Banquet/Auction and Funded projects

by: Dirk Edgeington
Wyoming FNAWS Director

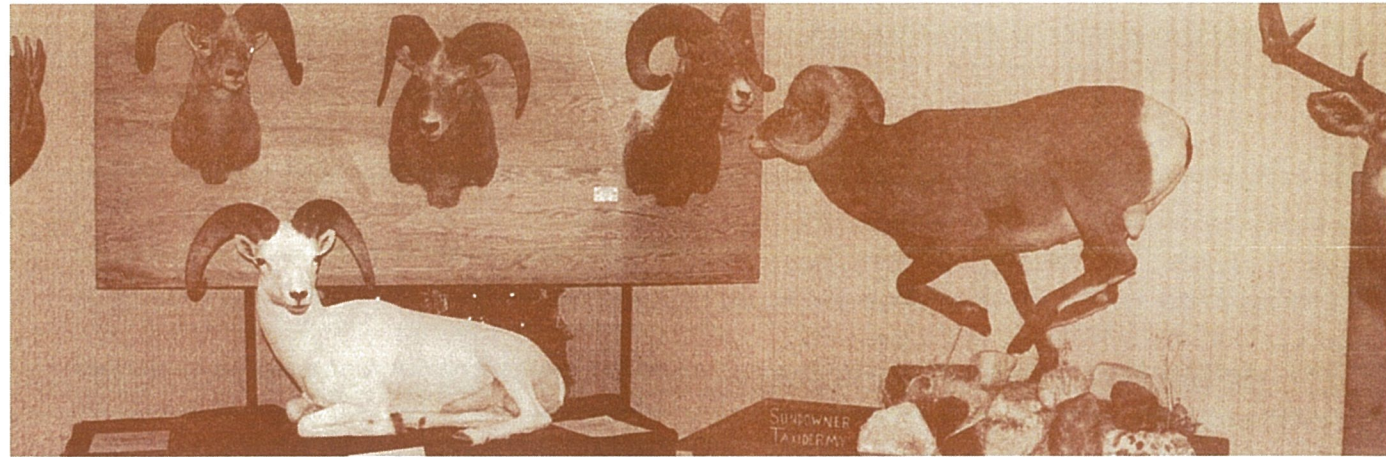
This past December Wyoming Chapter of FNAWS held their annual winter banquet and auction at the Hilton Inn, Casper. Interest levels were high at the many booths, games, wildlife displays, and seminars. We had several diversified seminars for both men and women. Some available choices were wine tasting, with Gordan Horton of Terry Ranch Cellars, ram scoring with Duncan Gilchrist, Sheep Eater Indians, with Joe Brandl of Absaroka Tannery, Survival Seminars with Peter Kummerfelt, and Wyoming Game and Fish Department updates on sheep projects.

There were a number of booths ranging from local artists, Wyoming Game and Fish, Wyoming Chapter of FNAWS,

of the continent. These included Rocky Mountain Bighorns, Dall, Stone, and Desert Bighorn Sheep. There was a book Wyoming Bighorn killed by T.K. Atkinson and a white Wyoming Bighorn taken by Brad Nelson, both of Wyoming. There were also many deer, antelope, and elk. It was truly an amazing display of trophies.

The Banquet was a great success grossing approximately \$51,000. It was a very enjoyable opportunity for friends new and old to help raise money for wild sheep.

The Wyoming Chapter had many funding requests for 1999. The Chapter voted to fund: \$1000 to the 1999 Wyo. Hunting and Fishing Exposition in Casper September 10-12, the 2nd North American Wild Sheep Conference in Reno, NV for \$500, and the National Bighorn Sheep Interpretive Center for \$2000. Also there were several requests from Wyoming Game and Fish Dept. Which were approved: Dalmation Toad Flax Biological Control in Cody for \$1500 and in the Dubois area, Trail



card games and numerous others. Also this was the first year we had an outfitter, Lamplighter Lodge, attend in person, and with great success selling 5 hunts in addition to the bear hunt he donated to the live auction.

The head display was spectacular to say the least with wild sheep from all corners

Lake Meadow Reseeding for \$2500 and Whiskey Basin Lamb Mortality Study for \$5500. Wyoming Game and Fish Dept. For predator management to support and enhance the Sweetwater Rocks Bighorn Transplant will receive \$11,000. Also, a \$500 donation to the Leland Bradford Memorial Scholarship Fund.