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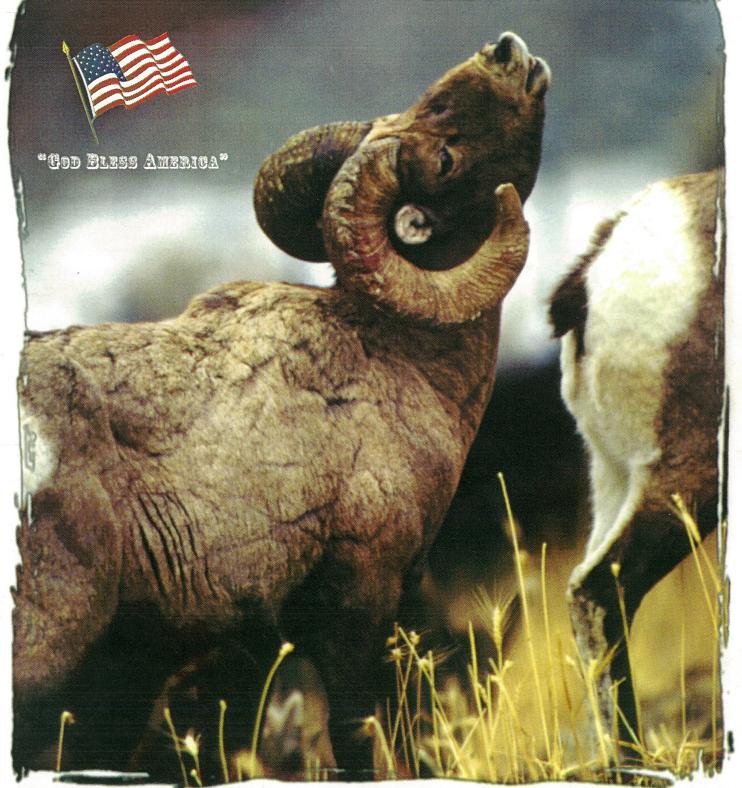
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Wyoming Chapter FNAWS

WINTER 2001



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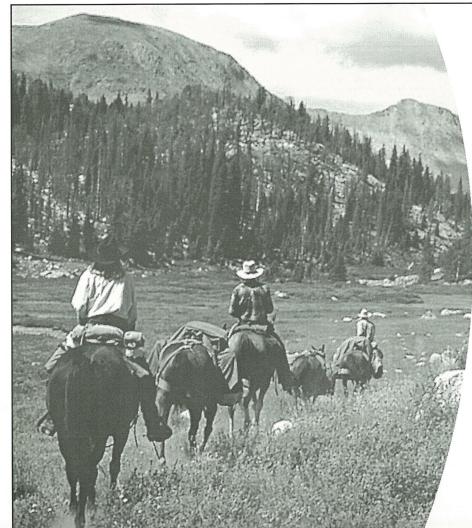
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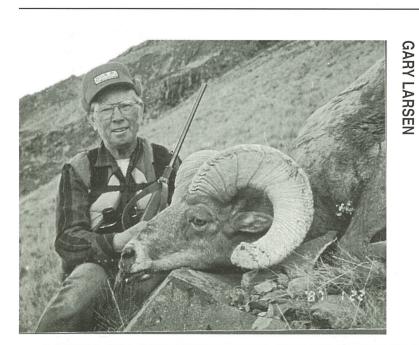
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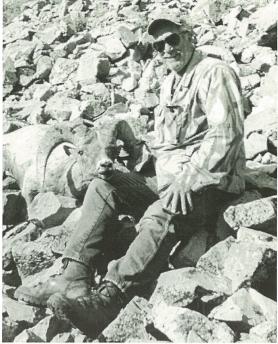
received this very nice hunt report from **DOYLE TOLIVER**, of Darby, Montana. "Enclosed is a photo of myself and the ram I took in hunting Area #7 near Jackson, Wyoming. The hunt was very difficult in that it was hot, like real hot! The temperature was around 90 degrees or higher most of the hunt, and the rams were in the trees. I hunted for six days before connecting with my third Bighorn ram.

I was successful in drawing a tag in Idaho and Colorado prior to this hunt. I have taken a Stone in British Columbia and a Dall in the Yukon, and like so many others, I need a desert sheep to complete my Grand Slam.

I can't say enough about Camp Creek Outfitters and their top sheep guide, Dan Gustafson. He made a very difficult hunt more palatable.

Thanks to all who put sheep on the mountains."





ARY LARSEN from Lander hunted with Wind River Mountain Outfitters in Area #5 and took this ram on the second day of the season. Gary was able to select this bighorn from a bunch of eleven.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION





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EDITOR'S NOTES

September the 11th. One of those dates we will all remember exactly where we were and what we were doing. Tragedy burns these memories into our mind. Once again, I ask all of you to take a moment to share your prayers and thoughts for those less fortunate than us. I can think of nothing further to say which will ease the pain and suffering of those individuals and families directly involved. Back our leaders in their hunt to eradicate the murderers.

Preparing your RAMPAGE has sure been a lot of fun, especially having the opportunity to meet so many of you, and listening to the excitement in your voice when sharing stories. Well, as the saying goes, all good things must come to an end, and this is my last issue. My wife has received one of those offers you cannot refuse, and we are moving to Elko, Nevada. The friendships we have made here in Wyoming have been magnificent. I hate to do this, as you always leave someone out, but two individuals have really made an impression on me. One is past secretary of the chapter, Dave Luzmoor, without whose determination I would never have known about, or become involved with WY FNAWS; the second is Board Director Fritz Meyer, and his wife Connie. They have taken me under their wing and gone beyond friendship to show me sensational hunting and riding into the back country of won-

derful Wyoming. Thank you, and thanks to all the rest of you who I have met personally, by phone, or email, every one of you means a lot to me, and I will miss you.

Hey, did you overlook some of the errors and omissions in the last issue! That just shows you we are amateurs having fun and enjoying telling you about wild sheep and related subjects. I will try to do better this time.

I would have to say justice was administered in the poaching trial and sentencing of the two men responsible for killing the ram featured on the cover of the last RAMPAGE. A great instance of the STOP POACHING hotline working. One fact I left out in the story you will read later in this issue, and was stressed by the investigators for G&F, the site of the poaching was left undisturbed by the individual who reported the incident. This is important for all of us to remember should we encounter a reportable situation, try not to disturb the evidence.

For those of you who have been successful in drawing a bighorn tag, Congratulations, I hope all of you were successful; for those of us still submitting those applications, check the odds on the last page, and GOOD LUCK!!

David B Connor

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The recent sentencing of the two Greybull men convicted of poaching two bighorn rams on the North Fork of the Shoshone River in Cody last December sends a strong message that Wyoming is not going to tolerate these criminal acts. Gary Vorhies lost his hunting privileges for 50 years; his accomplice Cody Cannady lost his for 10 years. Vorhies was also ordered to pay \$44,620 in restitution, fines and court costs, with Cannady ordered to pay \$19,560. Both men were sentenced to jail time as well.

On behalf of the Wyoming Chapter, I would like to thank those involved for their dedication and efforts during this lengthy process: the Wyoming Game & Fish Department, especially Wildlife Investigator Craig Sax; Circuit Court Judge Bruce Waters, National FNAWS Executive Director Ray Lee, WGFD Biologist Kevin Hurley and everyone else who played a role in seeing justice done. The Wyoming Chapter is extremely pleased and satisfied to see that these men are paying the price for their blatant and disrespectful acts against our bighorns.

We hope you enjoy this edition of The Rampage. I wish all of you the best this holiday season and a happy, healthy new year.

POACHING HOTLINE - 800 442 4331

Cole Benton, President

Allotment Buyout in Tetons!! 4/26/01

To reduce the possibility of contact between domestic and wild sheep, Wyoming Chapter FNAWS has successfully negotiated another domestic sheep allotment buyout, this time on the west slope of the Tetons, home to one of Wyoming's "core, native" bighorn sheep herds. Mr. Robert Ball, permittee on the Green Mountain domestic sheep and goat allotment, has agreed to waive the permit for this allotment back to the Targhee National Forest, in exchange for other considerations.

Wyoming FNAWS, led by the efforts of Past President Jim Collins, was instrumental in helping Mr. Ball acquire the grazing permit for the Spring Creek/Barnes Creek/Miners Delight allotment on the Soda Springs Ranger District of the Caribou National Forest, located in southeastern Idaho. Mr. Ball had been very interested in acquiring the permit for this particular allotment, since it lies adjacent to other sheep allotments currently permitted to him. WY-FNAWS worked with Mr. Ball to ensure he was the high bidder on the allotment he was most interested in. In addition, with the urging of WY-FNAWS, the joint Range Staff for the Caribou-Targhee National Forests also offered the adjacent Bridge Creek domestic sheep allotment on the Soda Springs Ranger District to Mr. Ball. Funding of \$6,000 was provided by WY-FNAWS, while Minnesota-Wisconsin FNAWS and Eastern FNAWS each contributed \$5,000. This collaboration again demonstrates the strength of the FNAWS network of wild

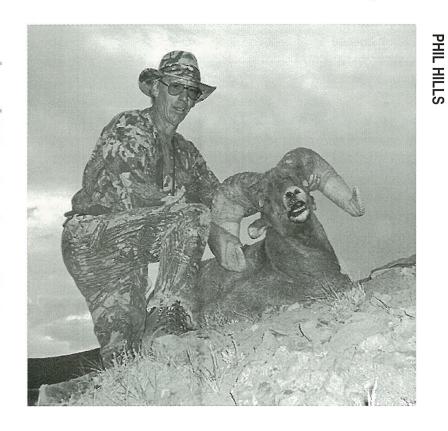
sheep advocates.

Mr. Ball voluntarily waived the permit for the Green Mountain allotment back to the U.S. Forest Service, without preference. The Targhee NF Forest Plan states that "selected domestic sheep allotments in and near overlap areas with bighorn sheep and grizzly bears will be closed on an opportunity basis". Wyoming FNAWS worked hard to create that opportunity.

Papers were signed in St. Anthony, ID on May 8, 2001, and the Targhee NF will begin the process to permanently close this allotment. Benefits to bighorn sheep in the Tetons should begin to accrue almost immediately, as the possibility of co-mingling with domestic sheep is sharply reduced. Also, chronic depredation problems with grizzly bears preying on domestic sheep will be eliminated on this allotment. Habitat improvement opportunities and possible augmentation of the Targhee bighorn sheep herd via future transplants will be carefully evaluated in the coming months.

Throughout the negotiation process on the Green Mountain allotment, and in statewide discussions with the domestic sheep industry over the past year, Wyoming FNAWS has maintained a very determined multiple-use philosophy, and has worked hard with a willing permittee to arrive at a "winwin" solution to address an identified, high-priority resource issue. This is a project the entire FNAWS network can be proud of.

HUNT REPORTS



This ram was taken in Area #5 by PHIL HILLS of Casper, on a self-guided hunt. Phil tells his story, "I hunted with a bow for 1 week and saw numerous sheep, but none big enough and in bow range. Hunted another 10 days alone with a rifle and passed on 3 rams opening day. Then I went another 7 days without getting within rifle range of a good ram. Had a grizzly in camp at about 2 AM one morning. Kirk Hellander (see story on Boone & Crockett Ram In Area 5) of Thermopolis, a friend and co-worker, offered to help me find a good ram. Kirk's help and his trusty steeds "Pickles" and "Jon-Jon" was all it took to change my luck. I harvested this ram the first evening we hunted together. He green scored 172 with 15 7/8" bases. WY G&F aged him at 5 1/2 years old. I hunted a total of 18 days, scouted 9 days - all in all it was the hunt of a lifetime!!" Phil, sounds like a terrific experience.



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KNIFEMAKER TO THE WY CHAPTER FNAWS

im Metzler, Mountain West Outfitters, guided GARRY BENNER, of Cody to this magnificent bighorn. He reported "I hunted in Area #5 with Mountain West Outfitters. My guide was the outfitter, Tim Metzler from Powell. We went into the mountains two days before the season began and had two rams spotted. As luck would have it, another outfitter moved in the day before the season opened and camped right in the area where the two rams were located. Of course he put his hunter on them opening morning, but he missed the sheep then quit the country. Naturally this meant we would have to locate another ram.



Later on opening day Tim spotted a band of 11

rams in what was later described as a 'hell hole'. I was concerned about getting into and out of the country where the rams were, but Tim was not. On September 2nd we did get onto the mountain, made a classic stalk, and were in position. It was a one shot kill from 237 yards in really steep country. Getting the sheep to the horses and back out of that hole was very interesting. It was a short but memorable hunt with an outfitter willing to go the extra mile.



met GREG ROBINSON riding off the mountain as I was going in for an elk hunt. Greg is from Cody and was guided by Cody Brown of Wind River Mountain Outfitters. They hunted Area #10. During our brief exchange of conversation when passing on the mountain, I know Greg and Cody hunted hard for several days until they spotted this ram. Greg told me he also has a couple of other mountain sheep to his credit.

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#80 Mike Hildner (H)

POACHERS SENTENCED!

Gary C. Vorhies, 39, was sentenced to two years in Park County jail and his accomplice, Cody J. Cannady, 33, will serve one year. Both men are from Greybull. This story is a follow up to the photo featured on the cover of our last issue of *RAMPAGE*. In unprecedented sentencing, Vorhies will lose his hunting and fishing privileges for 50 years. Cannady lost his privileges for 10 years. The jury trial was held in June, and Vorhies was convicted of two counts of wantonly taking a bighorn ram and two counts for taking a bighorn ram without a license and out of season. At the same trial, Cannady was convicted of aiding and abetting in Vorhies violations, two counts. At the sentencing hearing Circuit Court Judge Bruce Waters ordered Vorhies to pay \$44,620.00 in fines, restitution and court cost. The Judge stated that if he could send Vorhies to prison, he would. Fines, restitution and court costs levied against Cannady amounted to \$19,560.00. The court ordered Vorhies to pay \$30,000.00 restitution for the two rams after hearing testimony that on average, a Wyoming bighorn sheep license brings \$30,780.00 at auction (information provided to the court by your WY Chapter officers). Among other penalties, the defendants cannot possess any firearm, archery equipment, or any other equipment used for the purpose of hunting, fishing or trapping. A significant fact of note is a "STOP POACHING" tip led to the conviction of the two Greybull men. The "STOP POACHING" Hotline is 800 442 4331.

16

#40 Tyler D. Benton

WYOMING GOVERNOR BIGHORN TAGS

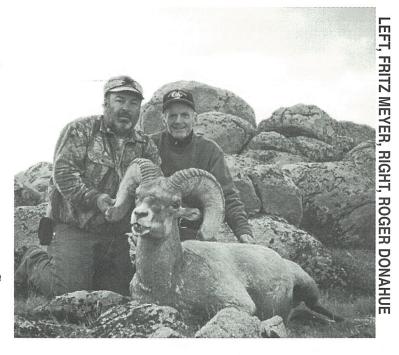
Thave reports on two of the 5 Governor tags which were auctioned for this season. The successful bidder for the tag awarded to the Wyoming Chapter was ROGER **DONAHUE** of Hanover, New Hampshire. Roger was bidding on the tag awarded to National FNAWS at the convention in Reno February of this year, but discontinued when the price got above his comfort level.

While in Reno Roger met with Fritz Meyer of Wind River Mountain Outfitters in Dubois, and a bond was formed that ultimately led to the purchase of our tag and booking the hunt with Fritz for Area #10. Roger is friendly with MN/WI FNAWS chapter president, John Coulter, and invited him to join in on the hunt. The two arrived in Dubois a few days prior to the opening of the season and rode into camp to take advantage of the scenic Wyoming mountains and do some scouting.

The photos show the results of the hunt when the season opened, and the smiles tell of the shared happiness of all involved. Roger and John were a joy to spend time with, and I know they enjoyed the Wyoming country and hospitality. Later in the season Roger continued on to southern Utah where he was successful in killing a large desert ram. He already has Stone and Dall rams, so the coveted grand slam of North American wild sheep is his!

The second hunter to purchase one of Wyoming Governor tags is ARTHUR SCHIZLER of North Hampton, Penna. Arthur purchased his tag through the MN/WI Chapter auction, and he also elected to hunt in Area #10. Arthur was vacillating between two outfitters and finally decided on Fritz Meyer as had Donahue. Arthur brought his wife to Wyoming for the hunt and they thoroughly enjoyed the friendship of camp life, visiting with the guides and cook, sight-seeing of the local splendor, and ultimately scoring on this fine bighorn

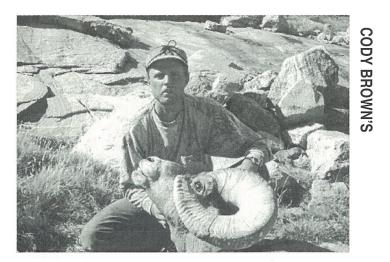
We, the Wyoming Chapter FNAWS, and WY G&F, certainly thank gentlemen like Roger and Arthur for their support in bidding up the Governor tags in order to put sheep on the mountain.





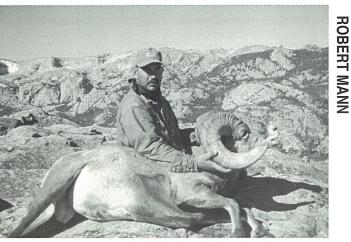
Robert's guide

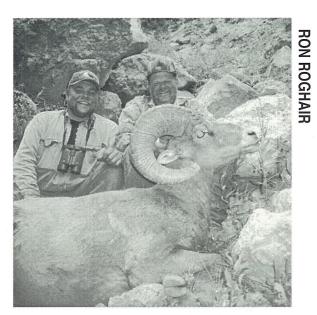
OBERT MANN had a great hunt in Area #10. Robert is from Rock Springs and booked his hunt with Wind River Mountain Outfitters. Dirk Edgeington was



Tou have seen guide CODY BROWN'S name mentioned several times in the hunt reports. Cody is from Dubois and was fortunate to draw an Area #10 tag for this year. Cody works for Fritz Meyer, Wind River Mountain Outfitters, and between guiding clients, was able to hunt on his own for several days, looking for the ram of his dreams. Well, Cody shot this hog, which scored 166+, and he is a very happy hunter as well as guide!

> **Renew Your** Membership Now!





ON ROGHAIR, on the right, of Rock Springs was successful on his hunt in Area #4. On the left is Dirk Edgeington, guide for Wind River Mountain Outfitters. It took a few days for these guys to succeed, but they sure look happy about the results!



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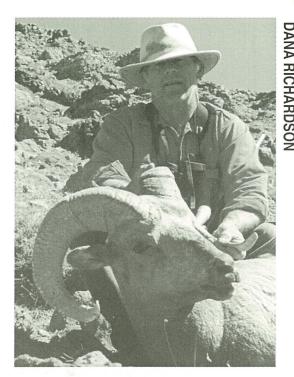
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15



ody Brown, guide for Wind River Mountain Outfitters, led **DANA RICHARDSON**, Riverton, to this Area #4 bighorn. He was guided by Cody Brown.



AN SHEELER of Alpine, also hunted with Wind River Mountain Outfitters, in Area #4. Dan shot this ram on the first day of the hunt with Cody Brown as his guide.



TIS CLEMENS, is from Gillette. He hunted in Area #4 with Wind River Mountain Outfitters with guides Cody Brown and Mike Milton. They hunted hard and scored on the 3rd day.

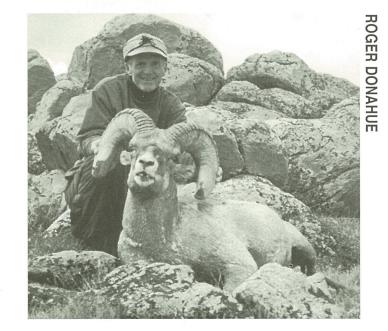
DAVID CONNOR



was able to complete a fabulous year with Fritz and Wind River Mountain Outfitters by taking this nontypical muley on the 13th of November. After some tough hunting, guides Dirk Edgeington and Cody Brown led me to this 29 3/4" seventeen point deer!

GOVERNOR TAGS CONT.









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SUMMER METING BANQUET

JUNE 8,2002 THERMOPOLIS

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HOLIDAY INN

NTHONY ZARILLO of North Brunswick, NJ wrote to say he hunted hard with B Joe Coy, Coys Yellow Creek Outfitting, but without success. "I hunted hard but did not see any shootable rams. We went to the head of the Thorofare and Yellowstone, camped in Robinson and shot a big bull elk, no deer, and lots of grizzly every day, but could not find a bighorn. The only ram I saw was on the last day of the hunt, but it was too far away to pursue." Anthony had his friend Tracey Laughlin accompany him on the hunt.

14

RAFFLE RAM

It all began in 1999 when WY FNAWS and the WY G&F sponsored a display at one of the sport shows in Casper. While visiting the other booths I picked up Colorado's The Rocky Mountain Bighorn Society newsletter, and discovered they were having a raffle for a Dall's sheep hunt in Alaska. Some months later, when Nancy and I returned from a Florida visit, the message "You have won" shocked me! You know the other guy always wins these things.

The hunt was for fall 2000 with Alaska Registered Guide Tom Shankster, (303 364 5877), and after several telephone calls we were both pretty excited. Then disaster, Tom blew the engine in his plane while en route to Anchorage. Not just a plug or hose mind you, I am talking the engine!! Bottom line, we both agreed to put off the hunt until 2001. The hunt in August of this year was a classic. Gut busting, rotten scree and shale, vertical mountains your guide hops up like a jackrabbit, rain, snow, fording rivers, all of the wonderful things we look forward to in a sheep hunt, vow we will never do again, and when success shines upon us, we can't wait to sign up for next season!! O yes, did I mention this was a 100% backpack hunt?

It really was beyond words. Tom is a sensational pilot, and was able to land in spots you would think a billy goat couldn't negotiate. We were hunting about 150 miles west of Wasilla in the Alaska range, and it really was breathtaking, an experience I wish everyone could enjoy.

Opening day we were camped in a valley adjacent to a drainage Tom had scouted previously, but the ram we were after had disappeared. A few days later, in a new location, we shot the ram you see here, the BIG one went over the top to inaccessible terrain. We literally ran straight up to get this ram before it also went over the top, only to have it turn and run right back down to the bottom of the mountain, and fortunately, stopped at a mineral lick, where, after our hasty descent I was able to make a 225 yard one shot kill. Tom flew us out from the bush in his super cub on September 11 and both of us wondered why we were the

only plane in the sky. The question was answered when 2 F-15 fighter jets escorted us to the field in Wasilla!

Later in the season I was able to take this beautiful grizzly.

WYOMING CHAPTER FNAWS

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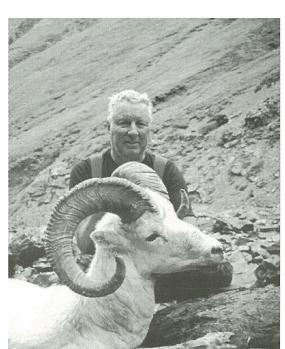
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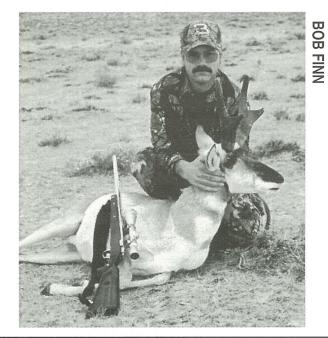
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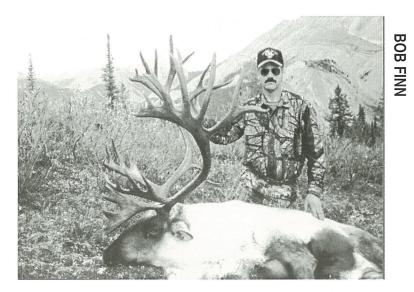
DAVID CONNO

OB FINN of Riverton was invited back to Mackenzie Mountain Outfitters by Stan Stevens to hunt caribou, as his hunt of a year ago was shortened when Stan had an accident with one of his planes. Bob shot this beautiful bull in Stan's area in the Northwest Territories.

Bob then returned home and got this 16" antelope by the Sweetwater River in Fremont County.







nce again my good friend Fritz Meyer, Wind River Mountain Outfitters of Dubois, led me on successful elk and moose hunts! The elk hunt was classic. We blew a stalk on a great, heavy 5 point just as dawn was breaking and Fritz said, "just relax and we'll go down and sit on this huge boulder and see what develops". A short while later a small bull squealed, and our bull emerged 387 yards away. All of a sudden, before I could get a shot, they all began to trot off into the woods. Fritz screamed his cow call, the bull stopped broadside, I made the shot, and the hunt was over! Longest shot I have ever made, it was really something. What a thrill.

With moving, and every thing else going on in my life, I did not have much time for moose hunting, in spite of the long season. Not to worry, Fritz came through again and has made this hunter, literally, one happy camper!!!



DAVID CONNO

AREA 5 YIELDS BOONE & CROCKETT RAM

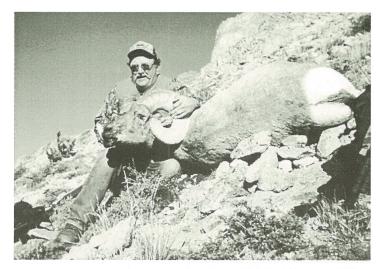
irk Hellander is a bighorn fanatic and his friends know it, so it was no surprise when **DENNIS SINCLAIR** of Thermopolis called Kirk to see if he wanted to assist him with his hunt. It was a foregone conclusion Kirk would help and the two began making plans. During the planning stage they discovered **SKIP CRAWFORD** of Worland had also drawn a tag and would be camped just above Dennis and Kirk near County Peak outside of Kerwin. The sheep hunting fraternity being a close knit group, it was no surprise all three of these fellows got together and continued working on the game plan Kirk and Dennis had initiated.

Skip indicated to the group he was not real particular and just wanted to shoot a good representative ram. As Dennis had initiated the preparations, it was mutually agreed he would have first choice and first shot.

Kirk and the two hunters proceeded to set up a reasonably elaborate camp, and Dennis had invited his daughter, son, and father-in-law along for the festivities. Friday evening prior to the opening, Kirk, Dennis, and Skip rode up the creek bed to see if 2 rams which had been scouted previously were still there. They were not sure if the 2 rams were on the mountain, but 8 legal rams were spotted, and they glassed them until dark!!!

The following morning, with explicit instructions to all family members to stay put, they could follow the event with binoculars, the hunt was on! At approximately 8:15 AM on Saturday, the 8 rams were spotted on the mountain, and the hunters were able to find a vantage point 180 yards close. Dennis was on Kirk's left and Skip on the right. Dennis had 1st choice and Skip absolutely agreed. Dennis' choice was the ram that was laying down. Kirk said "I think the ram on the left is the best







one". No Dennis said, he is facing away from us and I cannot see the profile of both horns, "I'll take the one laying down". Kirk, "I still like the one on the left, just shoot him right in the butt". "No, I just cannot see him clearly, I am going to shoot the one laying down" repeated Dennis. For the third time Kirk indicated his liking for the ram on the left but Dennis was adamant. At this point Kirk had Skip set up on the left ram and Dennis on his choice. Kirk counted, one, two, three, *bang bang*, and both rams were down for the count!

I am sure you have figured out the rest of the story, but they all got to Dennis' ram and it was a beauty with really heavy bases, then on to Skip's and it was a huge B & C class ram! All were back to base camp by 2:30 opening day celebrating with a cold beer! Believe me, all were very happy with the outcome of the hunt!

As a side note, Skip's hunt had a distinct possibility of disaster as his close hunting partner got seriously hurt just about a week prior to the opening of the season, and he did not wish to hunt the area alone. All this is when the camaraderie of the Thermop guys invited him along to their camp and you have read the results!

HUNT REPORTS



RIAN K. LOVELAND of Burns, Wyoming took this nice ram in Area 23 with Western Wyoming Trophy Hunts. Here's what he had to say about the hunt.

I had a great guide by the name of Randy Miller. My sheep was down opening day before my rear had recuperated from the ride in. Great rugged country, a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Seen six rams in two days. The Wyoming Game & Fish is to be commended on a great job of sheep management!



ave Luzmoor, Green River, guided his wife, BETH LUZMOOR, to this trophy antelope! Congratulations Beth, I am envious.

TRAIL LAKE MEADOWS

The Wyoming Chapter spent over \$12,000.00 for irrigation pipe, weed spraying, and re-seeding; and the WY G&F provided the labor to prepare Trail Lake meadows for winter habitat. This meadow is one of the core wintering areas for the Whiskey Mountain bighorn herd, and also provides a prime location for winter photo opportunities. A brass plaque with the following wording is to be placed at the meadow location.

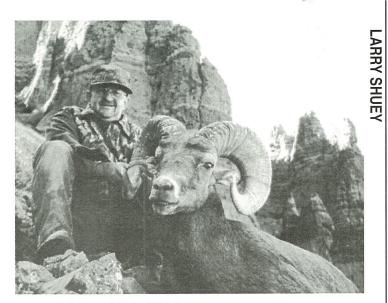
"Putting Sheep on the Mountain"

The Wyoming Chapter of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep is a non-profit, multiple-use conservation organization whose purpose is to promote management of all species of wild sheep native to North America. Our emphasis is on Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep.

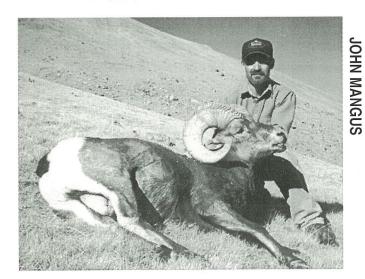
We strive to promote and enhance increasing populations of indigenous wild sheep, to safeguard against the decline or extinction of North American wild sheep and to find programs for professional management of these populations, keeping administrative costs to a minimum.

We are vigorously involved in the conservation and management of North American wild sheep and their habitat. In recent years, our efforts have expanded beyond the needs of wild sheep to include all wildlife, its habitat and support of sportsmen's rights.

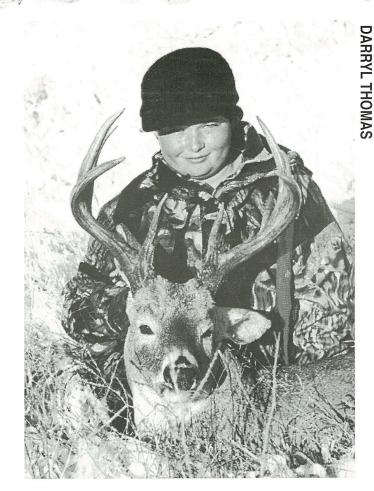
To date, Wyoming FNAWS has contributed \$350.000.00 toward wild sheep projects, including the Whiskey Mountain sheep herd.



ARRY SHUEY. Annyille. Penna took this beautiful ram in Area #5 while hunting with Coy's Yellow Creek Outfitters. Larry said "After many years of applying I finally drew an area 5 bighorn tag. I booked with B Joe Coy. The day before the season we spotted rams. shot this ram on the first day; 15" X 34". I rate everything about B Joe's outfit as excellent. 'Thank You, B Joe"



ohn Cargill, guiding for Elk Mountain Outfitters, led JOHN MANGUS of Wheatland to this fine ram in Area #5. Mike Wakkuri is the Outfitter for Elk Mountain Outfitters.



ARRYL THOMAS, son of board member Fred Thomas, of Meeteetsee, shot this beautiful whitetail this season. Darryl, I would love to have a trophy like yours!!

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FENCE COMPLETED

In Area #22 in Dubois, a situation exists where domestic sheep and wild sheep could intermingle, causing the usual transmission of multiple and possible fatal diseases to wild sheep. This has been taken care of with the cooperation of land owners Rene & Tracey Burke, the WY Chapter, and WY G&F. Over a mile of fence has been constructed on the Burke's land to prevent mingling of the domestic and wild sheep. Over \$6000.00 in labor and material was contributed by your Chapter, the WY G&F also contributed material to aid in the completion of the project

ROY PETROWICZ

CYNTHIA PETROWICZ

Lamplighter Lodge

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IKE SHANLEY, of Gillette, killed his ram in Area #3 on a self guided hunt. "Friend Ron Nizolic of Cody, showed and told me valuable information on this area, that helped me on my successful hunt. My ram green scored 156 7/8 with 15 3/8" bases and 33" horn length on a 5 ½ year old ram. After spotting him, it took about an hour and 15 minutes to get a 50 yard shot with my 7mm Winchester magnum. On my quest to get this ram I also found a 6 year old ram that had died during the winter or spring of 2001, and an old ewe skull. Needless to say I had a excellent day of hunting!





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