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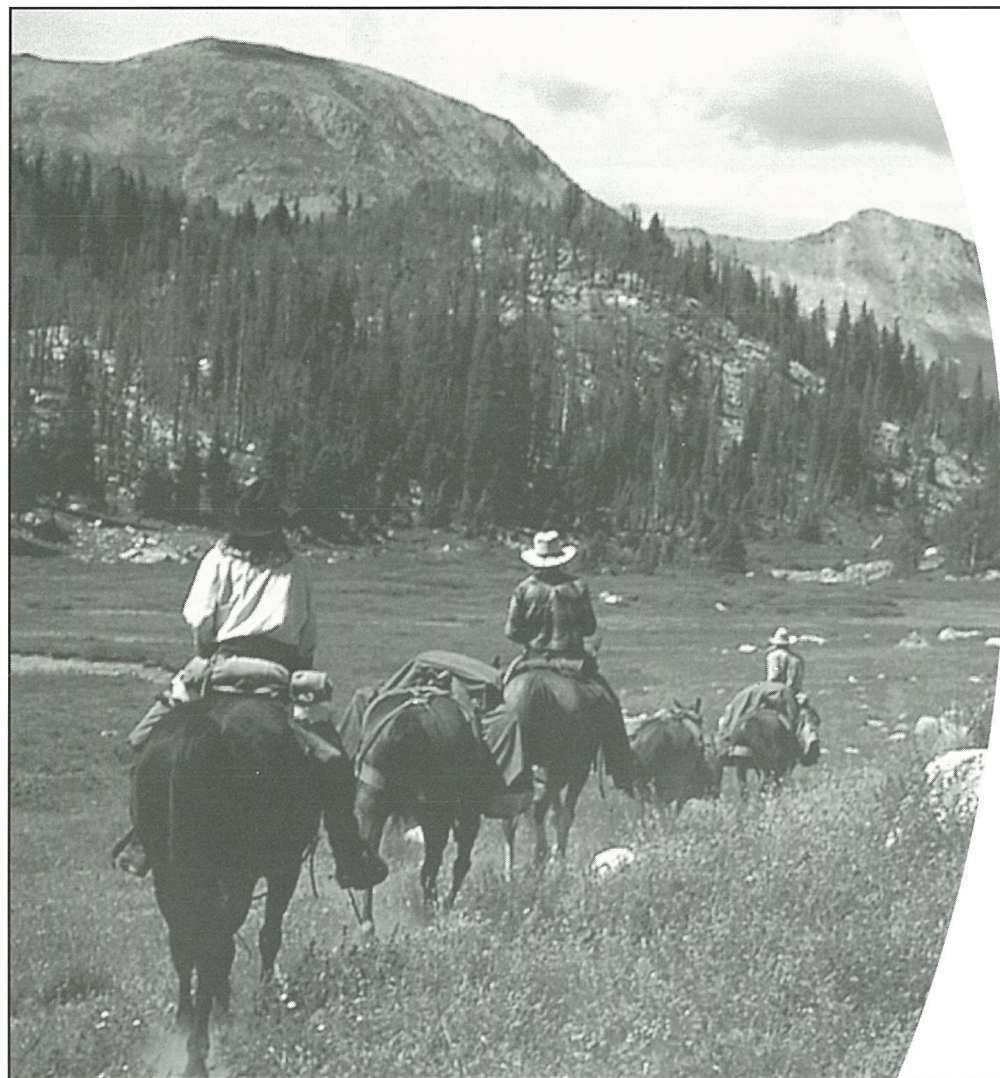
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Wyoming Chapter FNAWS

WINTER 2005



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Wyoming FNAWS Board and Membership Meetings

Wyoming FNAWS holds its winter board meetings on the first Saturday of December and summer board meetings the first Saturday in June at the Wyoming Chapter's annual fundraiser. General membership meetings accompany both board meetings. Details and locations will be posted on the Wyoming Chapter Web site.

Funding requests for consideration at the winter board meetings are due no later than November 1st. Requests for consideration at the summer board/general membership meeting are due no later than May 1st. The mailing address is Wyoming FNAWS, P.O. Box 845, Dubois, WY 82513.

WYOMING CHAPTER FNAWS

The RAMPAGE Magazine

ADVERTISING RATES PER ISSUE

FULL PAGE	\$180.00
1/2 PAGE	\$100.00
1/4 PAGE	\$ 55.00
1/8 PAGE	\$ 35.00

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Renew Your Membership Now!

If you see a "***" symbol next to your name on the mailing label of this newsletter, it means your WY FNAWS membership has expired. Renew your membership with us today, keep *The Rampage* coming and help support our bighorns! Just complete the membership application below and mail it along with your check made payable to Wyoming FNAWS.

Membership Application

I hereby make application for membership in the Wyoming Chapter F.N.A.W.S., and enclose my membership fee.

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WY FNAWS Name Tags have proven to be a popular item at our life member breakfasts and we've received many requests, so they are now available for sale. 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 a check made payable Lucy Turek to Lucy at 2225 West 45th St., Casper, WY 82604

Wyoming Chapter Foundation for North American Wild Sheep



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President's Message

Happy New Year!

Wow, what a year Wyoming FNAWS has had, from the great three-day convention in Lander in June, to the Burgess Junction Annual Summit Meeting and the tour of Devil's Canyon.

It was one successful stride after another, and then to top things off, Wyoming FNAWS was selected for the coveted Wildlife Society's Group Achievement Award, which I, past president Jim Collins and our wives, Elaine and Cindy, traveled to Calgary to accept on Sept. 19. Following that, members of the Wyoming FNAWS board met with the Wyoming Game & Fish Commissioners Nov. 4 in Torrington and received another award in recognition of all of the Wyoming Chapter's efforts for our bighorn sheep.

Another milestone was Jim Collins' finalization of the Wind River Allotment Complex waiver. This waiver turned 60,000 acres of domestic sheep use over to our bighorns, thanks to the willing permittee, Bill Taliaferro who worked closely with Wyoming FNAWS. Along with all of these accomplishments, our board members are all doing their best to keep up with their own personal lives, jobs and businesses.

On the subject of our board, this is a big election year for us. Seven directors' positions are up for election on June 4, 2005 at our Annual Summer Meeting in Sheridan. If you are interested in running for a position on the board, please see the related article and nomination form for the necessary steps. Nominations are due by April 5. We would love to have your help. Please remember one thing: this board puts in hundreds of volunteer hours. If you decide to run for a position, be prepared to work. If you have any questions about what is involved, feel free to contact any WY FNAWS board member.

Having held our Winter Board and General Membership Meeting in Lovell on Dec. 4 (after releasing 20 bighorn sheep that morning about Devil's Canyon!), our summer convention is just around the corner. Please come join us in Sheridan on June 3 and 4. Let's complete all of our business, then have a great time raising money for Wyoming's bighorns. See you there!

Cole

In Memoriam

On Dec. 30, 2004, the State of Wyoming lost two special people. Tom Thorne and his wife Elizabeth Williams were involved in a fatal car accident while traveling home from Denver after a returning from a vacation.

Thorne, a wildlife veterinarian, had recently retired from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, ending his 36-year career as acting director. After his retirement, he continued to work with the G&F as a wildlife disease consultant. Williams, a pathologist with the Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory and University of Wyoming professor, was a renowned expert on chronic wasting disease and was the first to identify the illness that affects deer and elk.

The Wyoming FNAWS Board of Directors extends its deepest sympathies to the couple's family, friends and the Wyoming G&F Department for this terrible loss.



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Log on to www.wyomingfnaws.org!

Visit us often at www.wyomingfnaws.org for project updates, the latest news, links and contact information, upcoming events, membership renewals and sign-ups and more.

Third Round of Big Game License Coalition Grants Available

The third round of funding from the sales of Gov. Dave Freudenthal's complimentary big game licenses will soon be available.

By statute, the governor can receive up to 20 complimentary licenses each year. The 2005 licenses mark the third year Freudenthal has turned his big game licenses over to the Wildlife Heritage Foundation of Wyoming to administer on behalf of the Governor's Office and the Wyoming Governor's Big Game License Coalition (WGBGLC). Proceeds from the sales are put to work for wildlife through an efficient and controlled process accountable to both hunting and conservation communities.

While some of the sales of the governor's licenses occur at banquets held out-of-state, 90 percent of the proceeds earned from the sales are returned directly to Wyoming, according to Mo Brown, executive director for the Wildlife Heritage Foundation. Sellers retain 10 percent of the proceeds to cover their marketing costs, but the majority of the funds are returned to Wyoming for the benefit of the state's wildlife.

In 2003 and 2004, the governor's licenses raised \$730,000. Fifty-eight projects have been approved, 13 of which were completed in 2003 and 16 of which have been completed to date in 2004. Project funds committed for the past two years total \$468,000.

The Wyoming Governor's Big Game License Coalition will meet in Casper this April to select projects for 2005. Project requests can range from prescribed burns and other habitat improvements to disease surveillance, movement studies, population data collection, research and conservation education.

Project grant requests for 2005 must be submitted electronically by Feb. 28, 2005 to the following species committees: Bighorn Sheep Committee, Moose Committee, Elk Committee, Deer Committee or All Wildlife Committee, c/o John Emmerich at John.Emmerich@wgf.state.wy.us. Electronic forms can be accessed online at gf.state.wy.us/wildlife/index.asp. For more information, or to request forms by email, contact Emmerich at 307-777-4579.

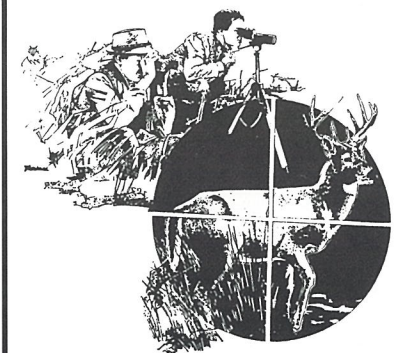
For further information about the WGBGLC, contact Marlene "Mo" Brown at the Wildlife Heritage Foundation of Wyoming at 307-777-4529, or by email at wildlifeheritage@wyoming.com.



From left to right, Luke, Adam and Dave

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A Cat Hunt to Remember (Continued from previous page)

It took about four hours to get dried out and warm and I settled down for the night.

Day 3 – It was midnight. I contemplated trying to make it to the road, but decided not to try it because it would be too dangerous by myself. I would have to cross the creek several times to get down and not knowing if the creek was completely frozen, if I fell in, it would be all over. I decided to stay by the fire. The temperature was dropping steadily all night and it had dropped to 30 below. I was glad I had a fire.

It was 4 a.m. when I awoke to a man's voice shouting. It was Pat and Mike. After my radio went out, Fritz got worried and gave me until 8 p.m. to get out, then he sent Pat and Mike to find me. The cut my tracks above the canyon and followed them to where I was. It took them eight hours to get to me. I was glad to see them, but I was also a little mad—they had risked their necks traveling in that type of terrain in the dark. But I couldn't be mad—I would have done the same thing.

Pat and Mike rounded up the dogs and we decided to try to make it out. It took us about an hour to get 200 yards, so we built another fire and waited for daybreak. When 6:30 rolled around, it was light enough to travel. We gathered up the dogs and made our way to the road where Fritz and Bobby were waiting. We were tired and hungry, but glad to be out. That day we slept and rested and planned to head back to the canyon the next morning to retrieve the lion.

Day 4 – I made some phone calls the night before and rounded up four buddies to help me get the lion. Pat and Mike decided to crawl back down in the hellhole again. We brought plenty of supplies. We didn't know if we could get him out skinned, because he had been in the tree for the last two days and the temperature had been down to 30 below.

We made it to the lion, taking about two hours. Luckily, his head and tail were the only parts that were frozen, so we were able to skin him out. We loaded him in my pack and headed out with a trophy lion. We estimated his weight at about 160 pounds; he was seven feet long from nose to tail. I want to thank everyone who helped, especially Pat and Mike. They risked their own necks to come looking for me. I will not forget it.

Lion Track

It is actually hope of dream, we wait endlessly it seems.

Maybe by fate, Tim will come through the gate.

Tim, our son, our brother and our friend, we all dispute your bitter end.

All we ask of you, Tim,

Just leave us a track now and again.

As we miss the track on our way, smile and turn us back the other way.

The echo through the canyon walls will give strength unknown to us all.

In your life, Tim, you touched us all.

You are missed day to day into fall

And at year's end.

We will start over again.

So, Tim, give the lions hell, keep Molly on their trail.

With untold fate, in time we will meet at your gate.

Goodbye, Tim. For now.

Burgess Junction Summit Meeting and Bring Your Own (Iron) Horse

A report from Cole Benton

The Second Annual Burgess Junction Summit Meeting was a success once again. Starting at noon on August 5, there were two days of bighorn sheep discussion between the Wyoming Game & Fish Department and Wyoming FNAWS.

Approximately 25 G&F personnel, including Director Terry Cleveland and Assistant Wildlife Division Chief John Emmerich, were in attendance along with Wyoming FNAWS board members. We were also very privileged to have WGF Commissioner Ron Lovercheck and WGF Commission President Hale Kreycik in attendance.

G&F personnel from each bighorn sheep area in Wyoming were present and each bighorn area was covered thoroughly. We discussed commitments made last year, if they were being accomplished or not, and continued on with future commitments for Wyoming's bighorns. Of course, one of the most talked about items was the Devil's Canyon supplemental transplant, which took place in December with bighorns from Oregon. This was the first transplant since 1995 and it has been a long 10-year wait.

On the Saturday immediately following the two-day summit meeting, 11 of us followed G&F biologist Tom Easterly on an ATV tour of the Devil's Canyon release site. As we passed through the entrance to the Medicine Wheel, a forest service employee gave us some history of this very ancient, mysterious landmark that American Indians still visit and honor. After the presentation, we continued on our ATVs and for several hours, Tom covered as much of the Devil's Canyon area as time would allow. He brought his telemetry equipment along to track six native bighorn ewes that were collared as part of this project. These bighorns were originally transplanted from the Whiskey Mountain herd in the early 1970s. Tom was able to pick up a couple of the ewes, which we were not able to see. But we did see three rams across the canyon. With much excitement over the pending transplant, most everyone returned to their homes that evening.

A special thanks must be given to the Wyoming G&F commissioners for approving this project and to Kevin Hurley, WGF Cody Regional Wildlife Management Coordinator and Tom Easterly for their hours and days of preparation for the successful December transplant. See the next page for details and photos!

Wyoming FNAWS Honored by The Wildlife Society and Wyoming Game & Fish Department

In the last newsletter, we ran a letter from The Wildlife Society, announcing that Wyoming FNAWS had been awarded the Society's 2004 Group Achievement Award for its successful bighorn sheep conservation efforts. Last fall, WY FNAWS President Cole Benton, left and Past President Jim Collins, center, traveled to Calgary to accept the award from TWS President Dan Decker.



Wyoming FNAWS received further recognition from the Wyoming Game & Fish Commission in Torrington last November.

Wyoming Chapter Board President Cole Benton, Past President Jim Collins and Secretary Lynn Stewart were on hand to receive the award. Benton, Collins and Stewart are pictured here with Wyoming G&F Liaison Kevin Hurley (far left) with both awards. Hurley is the regional wildlife management coordinator for the G&F in Cody.

The plaque reads: "The Wyoming Game & Fish Commission and Department recognizes, and sincerely thanks, the volunteers of the Wyoming Chapter of the

Foundation for North American Wild Sheep for their tireless accomplishments on behalf of Wyoming's bighorn sheep. Wyoming FNAWS has a distinguished record of on-the-ground project implementation, wildlife advocacy, multiple-use philosophy, and unparalleled commitment to one of Wyoming's resource treasures, its bighorn sheep and their habitats. We thank them for their efforts."

Wyoming FNAWS extends a big "thank you" to Rick & Roberta Roberts, owners of Bear Lodge Resort, for taking good care of us during our summit meetings. We also appreciate the use of two ATVs so our commissioners could participate in the Devil's Canyon tour.



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A New Beginning

On Dec. 4, 20 bighorn sheep from the Lower Deschutes River Valley in Oregon were transplanted to Devil's Canyon, located near Lovell in the northern part of Wyoming.

The three rams, three lambs and 14 ewes were transplanted to boost an existing herd resulting from 39 bighorn sheep that were transplanted from the Whiskey Mountain herd near Dubois in 1973. Though these bighorns are surviving, the herd has not flourished. Kevin Hurley, WGFD wildlife management coordinator for the Cody region, is optimistic that the transplanted bighorns from Oregon will intermingle with the existing herd and help it to thrive. The habitat in Devil's Canyon—dry, sagebrush country—is similar to the Oregon terrain from which the bighorns were relocated.

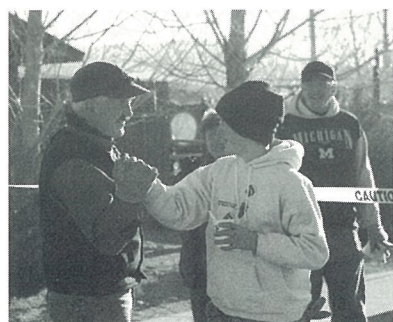


A ram is carried off the helicopter

On the morning of Dec. 4, the bighorns were transported in three trips via helicopter from the Horseshoe Bend staging site at the Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area to the release site. At the release site, Wyoming Game & Fish Department personnel and volunteers from the Wyoming FNAWS board of directors removed the hobbles and blindfolds, then the bighorns were free to explore their new home.

Two of the rams and 10 of the ewes were fitted with GPS collars to gather data to determine where the bighorns travel. The remainder received ear tags, which will emit signals that will also allow for tracking. The collars should remain on the sheep for about three years, then G&F personnel will collect them and retrieve the data.

Tom Easterly, WGFD biologist in Greybull, has been monitoring the sheep since their release. In a report issued at the end of the year, Easterly noted that with the exception of two fatalities, the rest of the transplanted bighorns were doing well and were in the vicinity of the release sight. Several of them were observed intermingling with the existing herd. The fatalities were one of the young rams and a ewe.



Hurley and his son Kyle celebrate the day's success

In addition to the privilege of assisting in the release of the bighorns in year two of this project, Wyoming FNAWS also participated by funding \$14,400 for relocation and telemetry costs. The Wyoming Governor's Big Game License Coalition contributed \$68,200 toward the project. Wyoming FNAWS also contributed \$3,000 for coyote control that took place prior to the transplant to give the sheep a head start. The Wyoming Animal Damage Management Board, working through the Bighorn County Predatory Animal Board, is contributing \$25,000 toward predator control. Over five years, this is a total \$240,000 project.

Hurley is the coordinator and overseer of the project. With the support of the WGFD Commission, Director Terry Cleveland and the assistance of numerous G&F personnel, the first transplant has been deemed a success. Hurley hopes to initiate a second transplant in 2005. If all goes as planned, Wyoming FNAWS plans to assist with additional funding.



The sheep are prepared for their flight to the release site



One last look before she goes

A Cat Hunt to Remember

Wyoming FNAWS lost one of its members, Tim Cannon, in a logging accident on June 10, 2004, just one week after attending the fundraiser in Lander. He was 36 years old. In tribute, we are running Tim's recount of a memorable mountain lion hunt from 2002 and a poem written by one of his many friends.

Day 1 – I had heard of a lion sighting from an elk hunter, so I decided to check it out. I dumped my four-wheeler off the truck and drove up to the area where the lion was sighted. It was about half a mile from the road. I was on the four-wheeler for about five minutes when I spotted a lion track going down the road. I immediately headed back to the truck and made a phone call to one of my lion hunting partners, Pat Poppe, and told him to bring the dogs. Another hunting partner, Mike Milton, also came along for the chase.

The snow conditions were not the best; I thought the track was from last night, but it was warm out and tough to tell. To make a long story short, we dumped the dogs out and the lost the track about half a mile away. Because of the elk and deer tracks, the dogs were unable to follow the cat track. Oh well, that's cat hunting.

Day 2 – We had a fresh snow the night before, so I decided to take the day off from work to look for a track. Fritz Meyer, owner of Wind River Mountain Outfitters in Dubois, Wyo., was also out looking for tracks that morning. I help him with his lion hunts.

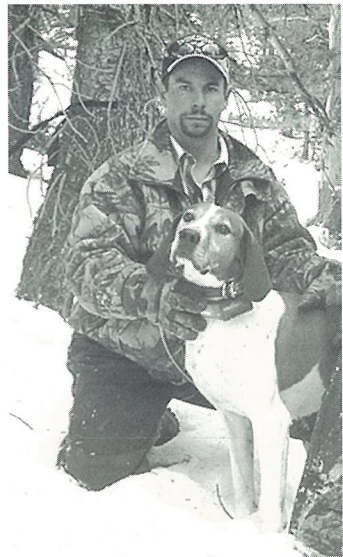
I was on my way towards town when I received a call from Fritz. He had cut a fresh cat track and the lion had killed two deer that night. I stopped and grabbed two more dogs and headed to the area where the deer kills were. That's where I met up with Fritz and his hunger, Bobby Sherd, a taxidermist from Casper. We looked the track over and figured it looked like the same one we had chased earlier and lost. Fritz and Bobby followed the cat track and the dogs. I stayed back on the four-wheeler. The cat was heading for Warm Springs Canyon, an area that would make Hell look good.

Fritz and Bobby made their way down into the canyon, following the tracks and dogs. It took the dogs about three hours to catch up to the cat, and they treed him about halfway down the canyon. Fritz radioed me and gave me the location, so I started to make my way to the area. I could hear the dogs hammering away. Fritz and Bobby got rim rocked, could not get to the cat and were exhausted from chasing the cat for most of the day. Fritz told me on the radio that if I could get to the cat from where I was, to go ahead and shoot it. As soon as I figured out the best way to him, I made my way down. I came to a rock ledge. Instead of my way around the steep ledge, I decided to try to climbing down (bad decision). I slipped and tumbled down and landed on my back. I got up feeling sore and stupid, and headed for the baying of the dogs. I made it within 40 yards of the treed lion. I came around a rock ledge, peeked around the corner and there was the lion in a short tree, maybe eight feet off the ground. As soon as he spotted me, he bailed out of the tree and the dogs were hot on his trail.

The lion only went 100 yards and treed again in a bigger tree, so I took aim with my pistol and shot him. I hit him one more time and he came out of the tree, running with the dogs on his tail and ran about 100 yards downhill. I followed the dogs and I looked up into a big tree and could not believe that the cat was lying in the tree, halfway up, and it was dead.

I sat back and tried to figure out how I was going to get him down. I tried to climb the tree, but the limbs gave out and broke. I decided there was no way I could get the cat down. It was 3:30 p.m., I was completely gutted and I couldn't think. I called Fritz on the radio to tell him I had shot the cat and it was stuck in a tree. I told him I was going to drop into the bottom of the canyon and walk the creek down to the nearest road.

I told him I had matches and fire starter in my pack in case I couldn't make it out before dark. Just then, my radio went dead; I hoped that he had heard me. I gathered up the dogs and started down; I had to travel fast if I was going to make it to the road before dark. If I couldn't, I knew I would be spending the night in the bottom of the canyon. It was too dangerous to travel in the dark. My pace was slow as I didn't have much energy left. I hadn't eaten or drank anything all day. I was eating snow because I was getting dehydrated. The dogs were also worn out and did not want to follow me, so I decided to leave them behind. They would find their way out after they had rested up. I kept making my way down, but only had about half an hour of light left, so I decided to find a spot with a lot of firewood and build a fire. I knew I would be spending the night. I could feel the temperature dropping quickly. (Continued on next page)



HUNT REPORTS

Dave Steger Enjoys a South African Experience

Wyoming FNAWS board member Dave Steger had a great time on a 10-day hunt in South Africa last August. Pictured here with his Vaal Rhebok, Dave, his girlfriend Maci Bodziony and nephew Dan Manzella harvested 17 trophies of different 13 species.

Most of the hunting occurred in the Winterberg Mountain Range, with elevations of 3,000' to 6,500'. This is only three hours from their coast. The high country will remind you of our sheep country with beautiful vistas, steep country and challenging game. For mountain specie, we took Mountain Reedbuck, zebra, White Blesbok and a highly-sought trophy, the Vaal Rhebok. We hunted on foot and did some long-range shooting.



The photo of the Vaal Rhebok is an example of the type of country we were in. We also took many plains specie in the valleys as well as two Mountain Zebra. The experience is like none other on earth and the cost is about the same as a first-class deer or elk hunt in the states. The entire hunt cost less than any Dall Sheep hunt (for three people and 17 animals!)

Besides being the ultimate hunting destination in the world, it's beautiful country with extremely friendly people. If you haven't done it you must—and once you do, you'll be hooked for the rest of your life.



A Long Wait Pays off for E. Perry Edgeington

It took a long time, but E. Perry Edgeington, life member #64, finally drew his tag last fall and it paid off.

After a 35-plus year wait and maximum preference points, I finally drew an area 22 sheep permit. Having always applied for area 10 without drawing, I decided to give area 22 a try. At age 68, I felt there wouldn't be too many more years of sheep hunting for me!

I have two sons who are life members of the Wyoming Chapter: (WY FNAWS Vice President) Dirk Edgeington, #24 and Randall K. Edgeington, #65. After I drew this tag, I was immediately offered plenty of help for the hunt! I am not sure who was more excited, Dad or the boys.

We went on a pre-season three-day scouting trip and located sheep, but only saw one ram of interest. Then came opening day with rain and fog. After four days of hunting, we finally located "The Ram"! After a long stalk, we were able to get to a good vantage point. One 260-yard shot, pictures, kudos, etc., as the saying goes, "and then the work began." I was glad to have two "packers." Thanks to Dirk and Randy for a long-awaited, terrific hunt.



Wyoming FNAWS Board & Members Have a Terrific Time in Lander

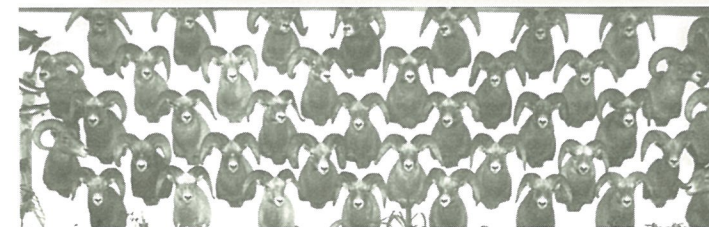
The Wyoming Chapter held its Annual Fundraiser Banquet at the Community Center in Lander last June. The third annual life member breakfast, complete with entertainment by G&F biologist turned comedian Ron Lockwood, was once again a great success. Thanks to past president Jim Collins for his hard work.

The fundraiser netted \$29,157.64; one of the highest returns on record for Wyoming FNAWS. Our heartfelt thanks to everyone who donated, participated and purchased—Wyoming's bighorn sheep are benefiting from your generosity!

Mark Your Calendars for Next Year's Annual Fundraiser Banquet and Membership Meeting:

When: June 4, 2005
Where: Sheridan Holiday Inn
Sheridan, Wyoming

More to come!



Sundowner Taxidermy

Robert Sherd - Owner

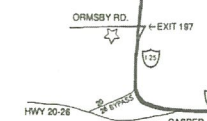



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2005 Commissioner's License Phone Auction

Wyoming FNAWS will hold a phone auction for a 2005 Commissioner's License on Friday Feb. 18, 2005 at noon. Anyone who is interested in bidding can contact WY FNAWS board member Fritz Meyer at (307) 455-2464.

Buy Your Raffle Tickets – There's Still Time!

Raffle #1: Wyoming Governors Sheep License

Wyoming FNAWS will be raffling a Wyoming Governor's Bighorn Sheep License for 2005. Raffle tickets are \$200 each; limited to 300 tickets. The drawing will be held April 15, 2005.

Raffle #2: Wyoming Commissioners License

Tickets are \$100 each. Limited to 300 tickets.

1st Prize: 2005 Wyoming Commissioner License

2nd Prize: 7-Day Caribbean Cruise

3rd Prize: 270 Remington 700 SS 300 Ultra Mag

4th Prize: Winchester Model 70 Classic 300 WSM

5th Prize: Tikka Model 695 Stainless 30-06

6th Prize: Zeiss 10X30 Binoculars

7th Prize: Zeiss 3-9 40mm Rifle Scope

8th Prize: Brunton 10X42 Eterna Binoculars

9th Prize: Cannon A80 Digital Camera

10th Prize: \$300 Cabela's Gift Certificate

The drawing will be held June 4, 2005 at the Wyoming FNAWS Annual Fundraiser Banquet in Sheridan, Wyoming. For tickets, mail your check to Bob Sundeen, P.O. Box 111, Buffalo, WY 82834.

Commissioners Licenses are good for elk or deer or antelope in Wyoming. Purchase of regular license required. Winners are responsible for all applicable licenses and taxes. WY FNAWS Board Members are eligible to participate in all fund raising activities.

H U N T R E P O R T S

Hurley Gets His Goat

Wyoming Game & Fish liaison and WY FNAWS life member Kevin Hurley drew his long-awaited mountain goat license last year. He and Doug McWhirter—fellow WY FNAWS life member and a Wyoming Game & Fish biologist—enjoyed three days of hunting that resulted in the harvest of this nice billy. Here's Kevin's recount of the hunt:



Doug and I hunted Sept. 22, 23 and 24. We saw over 75 different goats—12-14 different billies, which were mostly inaccessible—and we were able to connect Friday morning on this one. He's a 2-year-old, just under 9" horns, in a great spot (no cliffs right there for him to bail off), and we were able to get him out unscathed. Things worked out beautifully!! Doug gets credit for all the great photos and gets my sincere thanks for his assistance and companionship.

Kevin concluded by saying that he was sore, tired, behind at work, but very gratified, thankful, and inspired. "What a cool animal, and truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience!"



Hale Kreycik Completes His Slam

Wyoming FNAWS life member #8 Hale Kreycik completed his grand slam with this 9½-year-old desert ram. He harvested the ram on Oct. 26 in the North San Rafael Unit in Utah.

Hale is currently president of the Wyoming Game & Fish Commission and an avid bighorn sheep supporter. Congratulations, Hale!

H U N T R E P O R T S

Jim Collins, past president and board member of the Wyoming Chapter, enjoyed a hunt “down under” with Wyoming FNAWS donor Gary Hebert and took a great Wyoming bighorn sheep last fall. Here it is in his own words.



A great hunt in New Zealand

Last July, a party of four of us hunted with New Zealand Mountain Hunting Ltd., owned by Gary Hebert. Gary is a great supporter of FNAWS and this will be the second year he has donated to the Wyoming Chapter.

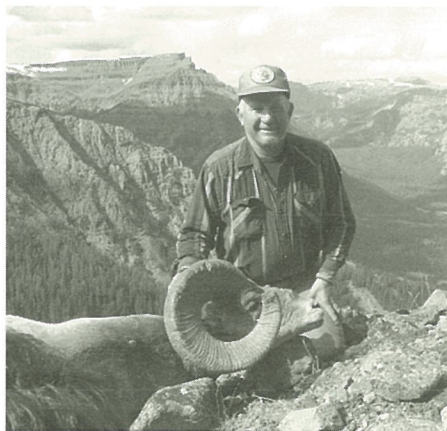
Three of us hunted in the Fox Glacier area, hunting chamois & tahr; the fourth member of our group hunted stag and fallow. We all took grand trophies. Gary guided me on the tahr hunt, and Stacy Anderson guided the chamois hunt. Both performed great in making the hunt outstanding. After the hunt, we did a little duck hunting and had a wonderful afternoon of wallaby shooting.



I highly recommend Gary to anyone considering a New Zealand hunt. We had three non-hunters along with us and they are still raving about the wonderful time they had—a great place to take your family! Watch for Gary’s donation at the Wyoming Chapter’s fundraiser banquet in Sheridan this June.

Collins is blessed with this hunt of a lifetime

I was honored to get an area 4 Wyoming Bighorn license this year. I made three trips up hunting for a total of 19 days. Anyone who has spent time in the back country wilderness is aware of the privilege it is to spend time in this rugged bighorn country.



On Oct. 4, accompanied by four friends, I was very lucky to be able to harvest an outstanding bighorn ram. The right (longest) horn is 40-6/8”; base 14-2/8”; quarters 14-7/8”, 13-7/8”, 9-3/8” with a green gross score of 184-2/8”.

WOW—to be able to spend time in this great country with great friends and then take a ram of this class, I feel really blessed!

Jim also noted that his Wyoming FNAWS life member knife (#10) has been sitting in his drawer since 1991, awaiting the chance to be used on a Wyoming bighorn. Now that knife has been put to very good use. Congratulations, Jim!

Interested in Serving on the Wyoming FNAWS Board?

Elections for open positions on the Wyoming FNAWS Board of Directors are held annually and terms are for two years. If you are interested in being a volunteer board member, please read and complete the nomination/profile form below. Elections for the 2005-06 Board of Directors will be held Saturday, June 4 at the Board/General Membership Meeting during the Wyoming Chapter’s fundraiser in Sheridan.

Wyoming FNAWS Board of Directors Profile/Nomination Form

- Name: _____
- Address: _____
- City, State, Zip: _____
- Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Cell: _____
- E-mail Address: _____
- Have you previously served on a wildlife conservation group committee or board? Yes No
- If so, which one(s)? _____
- How would you improve fundraising? Membership? _____
- _____
- _____
- As a board member, what would be your goals to improve Wyoming FNAWS?
- _____
- _____
- _____
- What are the strengths you would bring to the Chapter? _____
- _____
- If elected, would you have the time to dedicate to the year-long business of the Chapter? _____
- Please provide a reference letter from a current Wyoming FNAWS member(s), and the name and address of the sponsoring member _____

This completed form and reference letter(s) must be returned no later than April 5, 2005 to the Nominating Committee, C/O Wyoming FNAWS, P.O. Box 845, Dubois, WY 82513.



Governor's License Raffle Pays off for Rick French

Rick French was the winner of last year's Wyoming FNAWS Governor's Sheep License Raffle. Here is his story of his enjoyable—and successful—hunt.

I went hunting with Gary Roebing, Doug Cline, Mike Fiedor, and my longtime friend Bill Hampson. We packed in a dozen miles with 10 head of horses, hunted a total of seven days and saw 107 different rams and who knows how many ewes. The sheep are doing very well in area 5; I was very surprised at the number of sheep we saw. We spotted my ram on the first day and decided to let him go in hopes for a larger one. To make a long story short, we hunted hard and had many late nights back to camp. We “coyote camped” under a tarp one night, chasing some rams we had seen the day before miles and miles away. But none of the rams were as large as the ram we spotted on the first day that

we nick named “Fatty.” We tried to locate him again, to no avail.

The second-to-the-last day, we made an all-day stalk on four rams we spotted the day before. We had them at 500 hundred yards and were closing in, then a very large grizzly tried his hand at sheep hunting and blew the rams into parts unknown. Earlier that day, the wind blew over my Leica spotting scope, breaking it in half. Now I know why the trees lean in Wyoming! Just when I was thinking what else could go wrong, my video camera started eating tapes. Things weren't looking so good. As the final rays of light faded into an inky darkness, Gary spotted Fatty and we stayed the night right underneath him on the valley floor. The morning of our last day, we scaled a half-mile of cliffs, putting us about 100 yards from him. He was lying down straight away from us. Two well-placed shots concluded the best hunt I have ever been on!!! He was the largest ram out of the 107 we saw. I roughed the ram out at 161. He is all I could have hoped for!!

When it rains, it pours. I was extremely lucky to win the raffle. I was also extremely lucky to get hooked up with Gary. Gary and Doug's knowledge of the country and of the sheep could have easily made this a MasterCard® “Priceless” commercial. We all had a great time and I have made some new, longtime friends.

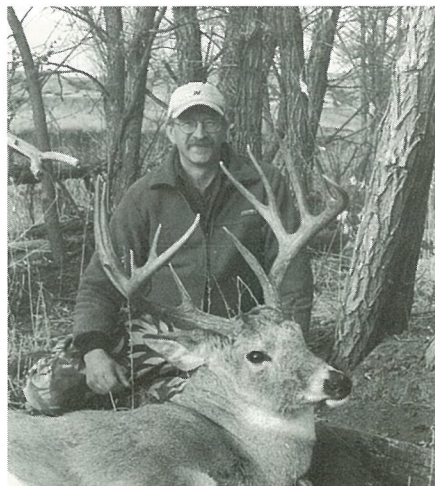
In parting, I would like to thank Wyoming FNAWS. I once heard a saying that has stuck with me for quite some time: “Dreams are what makes life tolerable, so dream big or don't dream at all.” I guess dreams do come true. Thank you very much. Good luck and good hunting.

A Whopper Whitetail

Wyoming FNAWS board member Lynn Stewart harvested this beauty of a whitetail last year. Here's how it all came about.

For the past 10 years, I haven't been very successful at drawing sheep permits, but I do slip away for other hunts. This past year, I was successful in drawing a whitetail tag in western South Dakota.

My hunt took place with good friends Tom and Sheila Trask of Dakota Trophy Hunts near Wasta. Good luck prevailed and I harvested a 168 B&C 6x7 whitetail on the first day. There were good numbers of whitetails, but I was also very impressed with the large number of trophy quality mule deer bucks.



The Second Chance Buck

Cathy Keene, Wyoming FNAWS life member and wife of board member Gary Keene, harvested this amazing mule deer buck last fall. After missing him the first time—and causing Gary to inform her that he was going to need mental therapy as a result—she capitalized on the second chance.

For years I have wanted to harvest a nice mule deer. I was successful in drawing two late season trophy deer tags over the last three years, but never really saw the caliber of buck I wanted. Gary is a taxidermist, and he and I own a taxidermy and Native American Arts retail store on the Wind River Indian Reservation, where we are often told stories of a “big one” being seen somewhere. With information of a large buck, I put my name in for a late season tag. When the list came out from the Tribal Game and Fish, my name was not there. I later found out that through a computer error, my name was omitted from the draw. I was given a second chance and ended up with the last “any deer” tag for the Owl Creek Mountain deer area.

On opening day, Gary and I took our 6-year-old daughter Kali and headed for the area where we had heard of a large mule deer being seen the year before. The morning was overcast and cold with a misty rain falling. We began glassing the hillsides at sunrise and eventually spotted five mule deer bucks. Shortly thereafter, more deer began to appear. I had never seen this many mule deer in one area. Since it was opening day, I passed on a borderline shooter. As we began to move around and scan other parts of the mountain, I noticed movement in my binoculars about a mile away. Gary pulled out the spotting scope to take a better look and came back indicating one of the deer out there was huge.

We planned our stalk and once there, Kali was comfortably bundled up in our coats while Gary and I crept forward on our hands and knees. We were over 400 yards away and couldn't get closer without exposing ourselves. Last year, I harvested my bighorn sheep at 415 yards, so I believed I could do it again. I easily picked out the huge buck in my scope and waited for him to stand up. We heard something behind us and turned to see our daughter walking in full view of the deer. We told her to drop down and luckily she was undetected. I turned my attention back to the buck. He stood up, I pulled the trigger, heard the “thwop.” The buck turned and we had our first view of his amazing spread. Gary told me to put another bullet in the chamber because the buck was coming right toward us...and buck fever set in. Gary kept telling me to wait until the deer stopped before shooting again. He continued closing the gap between us to 250 yards. All my previous experience meant little at this point. He stopped. I shot over him, then tried to lead him and shot in front of him. He was now going straight away and I missed a fourth time.

Gary said that buck was probably 40 inches wide – the biggest buck he'd ever seen. He went to check for blood and I slowly followed. The terrain made it difficult to follow tracks and blood sign. I topped the next ridge with no clue as to where the buck could have gone. Gary did not find any blood sign, so I accepted I must have missed on that first shot.

We got up early the next morning and headed out. We glassed throughout the morning and talked of plans to come out at every opportunity we could arrange with Gary's entire family on their way for an antelope hunt with us. On the morning of the third day, Gary and I headed out again, leaving Kali with her grandparents. We began spotting deer right away. By mid-morning, we were ready to move on when Gary spotted a few bucks that were from the group from two days before. They were about ¼ mile away from where I had shot the first day. The wind was not in our favor, so we came in from the opposite side than we had on the first day. It was a three-mile stalk over terrain that looked vastly different from the opposite direction. This made it difficult to determine which draw the deer had gone into.

We spotted a group of bighorn sheep and several groups of antelope. Several antelope bucks were curious enough to get closer to us. Two of the bucks were chasing a doe and one larger buck came within 38 yards of us. We thought they would ruin our stalk, but in the end, they likely helped us get close enough. As we topped the draw, there was no sign of deer. The antelope bucks began chasing the doe and each other up and down and around the draw and then deer started to appear. Gary sighted my big buck and told me I had another chance. I slowly pulled my rifle up, pulled down the bi-pods, and moved into position. “Two hundred and sixty-one yards,” Gary said. The deer was facing me almost broadside and I pulled the trigger. He bounded into the bottom of the draw. This time, I was ready with another bullet in the chamber in case he came out. He never did.

The deer grosses 291-5/8, and nets 285-3/8, with 35 points (19 x 16); 31 of which are scorable. Cathy says the buck has one of the most beautiful profiles of any non-typical she has ever seen.