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# The RAMPAGE

Wyoming Chapter FNAWS

WINTER 2006

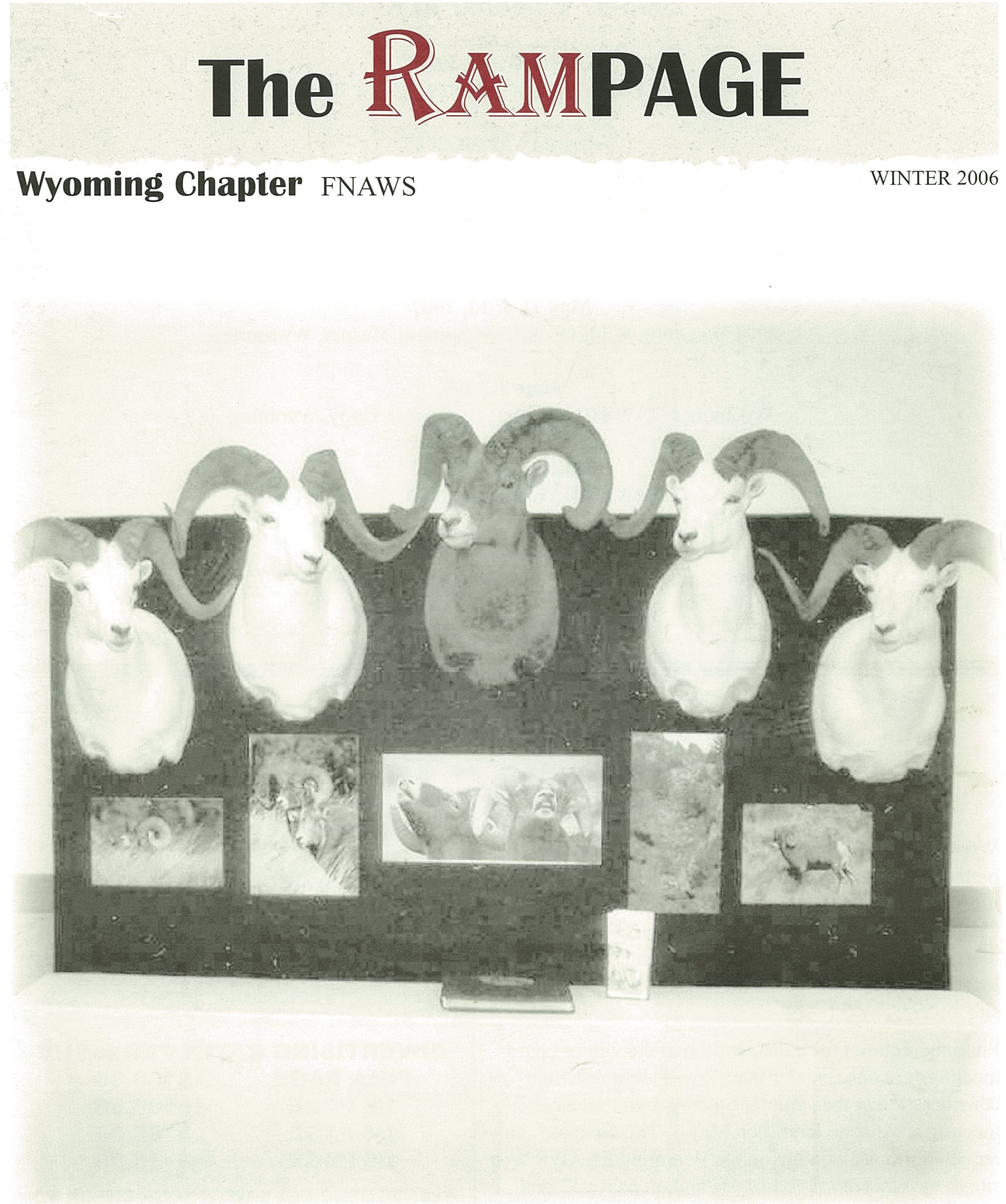


Photo credit Freddie Goetz

# 2006-07 Calendar of Events

**December 2, 2006**

Wyoming FNAWS Winter Meeting, Cody, Wyoming

**January 17-20, 2007**

Western Hunting & Conservation Expo in Salt Lake City, Utah

**May 1, 2007**

Grant-in-Aid Requests due for consideration at Wyoming FNAWS Summer Meeting

**May 11 & 12, 2007**

2007 Wyoming Wildlife Heritage Summit, Casper, Wyoming

**June 2, 2007**

Wyoming FNAWS 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Fundraiser, Cody, Wyoming

**June 21 & 22, 2007**

WGFD/WY FNAWS Bighorn Sheep Summit

**November 1, 2007**

Grant-in-Aid Requests due for consideration at Wyoming FNAWS 2007 Winter Meeting

## 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 Nov. 1. Requests for consideration at the summer board/general membership meeting are due no later than May 1. The Grant-In-Aid request form is available on the Wyoming FNAWS Web site at [www.wyomingfnaws.org](http://www.wyomingfnaws.org) and on pages 13 and 14 of this newsletter. The mailing address is Wyoming FNAWS, P.O. Box 845, Dubois, WY 82513

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P.O. Box 845, Dubois, WY 82513**



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# 2 Jeff Reynolds	#60 Scott Jankowski	#118 Joseph Konwinski	#176 Mike Lapeyre
# 3 Dave Steger	#61 Solvay Minerals Inc.	#119 Bill Skelton	#177 William "Butch" Townsend, III
# 4 Don Schmalz	#62 Ron Dean	#120 Ron Pomeroy	#178 Mary Ann Patton
# 5 Harry Whyel	#63 Ed Novotny	#121 Jeffrey A. Keim	#179 Stephen Petigo
# 6 Freddie Goetz	#64 E. Perry Edgeington	#122 Gretchen Hurley	#180 David Ostlund
# 7 Gene Hardy	#65 Randall K. Edgeington	#123 Terry Janssen	#181 Robert Flansburg
# 8 Hale Kreycik	#66 Michael J. Thompson	#124 Lenore Smith	#182 Daniel Hinz
# 9 Dr. R. D. Keeler	#67 Dan Coletti	#125 Joe Vollmer	#183 Tammy Scott
#10 Jim Collins	#68 Douglas Liller	#126 Dennis Claman	#184 Bradley A. Thoren
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#12 Jack Hildner	#70 Tom Spawn	#128 Randall S. Edgeington	#186 Rick Young
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#15 Kathy Gay	#73 Larry Brannian	#131 Steven Wildeman	#189 Mike Pilch
#16 Keith West	#74 Dan Gay	#132 Bob Sundeen	#190 Mark Virant
#17 Lud Kroner	#75 Ron Lockwood	#133 Gary Roebing	#191 Donald P. Chase
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#20 Kevin Hurley	#78 Wayne Knapp	#136 Wayne Jones	#194 Bryan Berg
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If you've changed your address, please use the membership form below to advise us of the change. You can also e-mail address changes to [info@wyomingfnaaws.org](mailto:info@wyomingfnaaws.org). 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.

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*Make checks payable to:  
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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



Please fill out your name below as you would like it to appear on your nametag. The other information is for mailing or questions.

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

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# President's Message

Summer has come and gone already. The Wyoming FNAWS fundraiser was a huge success. We raised more money for bighorn sheep at this convention than any convention in the past. Thank you to everyone who supported this event. Our summer fundraiser and meeting for 2007 will be the first Saturday in June in Cody, Wyo.

This past summer was a record-breaker for fires. We felt that the bad drought years were falling behind us when we received some decent moisture a year ago. Not so. In 2006, we went right back into the drought again. Each time clouds started building in the West, so would our hopes for moisture. Instead of moisture in those clouds, there would be lightning. Along with lightning would come another series of fires. One of the largest fires in Wyoming was in bighorn sheep Hunt Area 5 on the Greybull River. This much-needed burn lasted for two months until moisture in September finally stopped it. Though devastating to look at right now, the long-term results will be outstanding – not only for bighorn sheep – but all of the wildlife in that area.

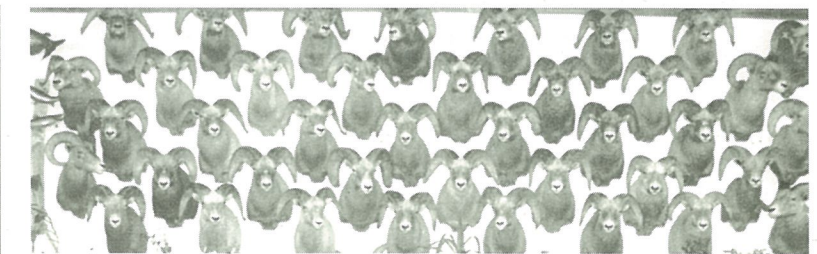
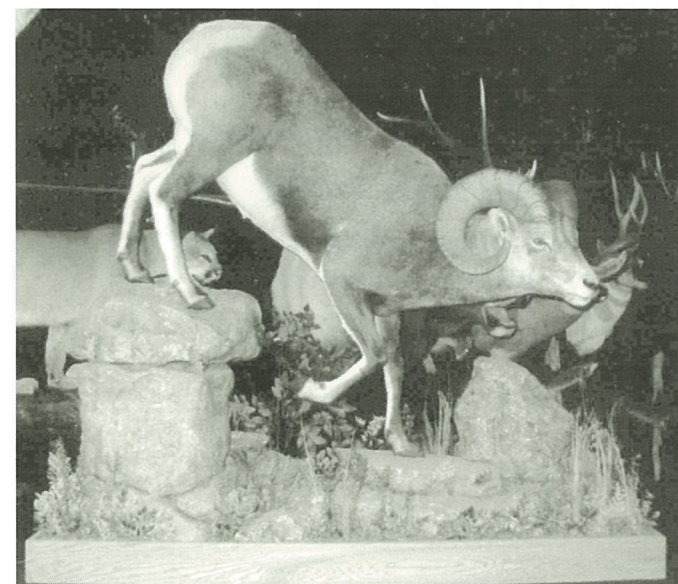
The Wyoming Game & Fish gave all Area 5 license holders a chance to turn in their tags with a guaranteed tag back in 2007 for sheep. Because of this fire, 19 tags were turned in.

Unfortunately, summer and fall get so busy for most of us that we have to turn our attention from sheep to our businesses. Come wintertime, it's back to sheep again. Wyoming FNAWS' Winter Meeting will be in Cody the first Saturday in December at the Holiday Inn. Please join us. The meeting will run from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Not too long after is the National FNAWS Convention in Salt Lake City. Hope to see a lot of you there in January.

Just got off the phone with our Wyoming Game & Fish liaison, Kevin Hurley. More good news. He is working on another supplemental transplant from Montana to Wyoming for 2007.

Hope everyone is having a good fall. Look forward to seeing a lot of you soon!

Cole D. Benton  
President



## Sundowner Taxidermy

Robert Sherd - Owner

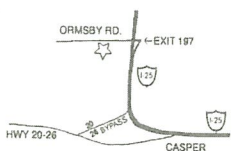


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- Renew or join for one year \$45.00
- Renew or join for 3 years \$120.00  
\$15.00 savings
- FamilyMember - \$80.00
- International Member - \$100.00  
(non-North American)
- Company Member - \$200.00
- Junior Member - \$10.00 - for ages 4-12
- Upgrading or becoming a Life Member: \$1000.00
  - Ages 59-64: \$750.00
  - Ages 65 & over: \$500.00  
(Please send photocopy of proof of age such as driver's license.)

### Life Payment Plan:

- 10 months @ \$100.00 per month
- Quarterly Payments of \$250.00

YES: As a part of my membership, here is my additional contribution to go to FNAWS, which is entirely tax deductible.

- \$20.00     \$50.00     \$100.00     Other

Check here if you are an outfitter

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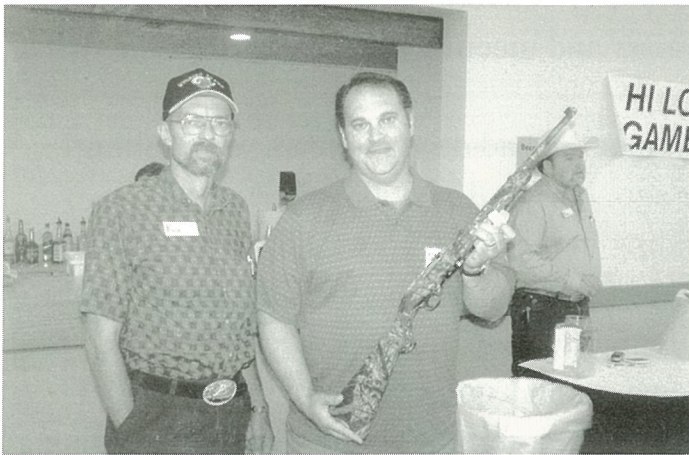
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*Thank You*



Mike Turek congratulated Scott Lacy, the winner of the Beer Mug Raffle



Vicky Pomeroy was the sole survivor of the Mad Hatter Gun Raffle



Tom Lucas demonstrated his horn bows

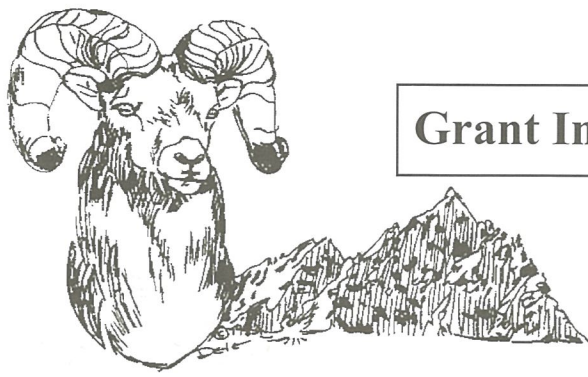


Janice Cronin, Elaine Benton, Lucy Turek and Lacey Benton welcomed the attendees

The Wyoming Chapter held another highly successful fundraiser in Cody this past June. The silent auction, live auction and raffles grossed approximately \$90,000, with \$50,000 netted. Contributing to these figures was the auction of a Commissioners License from Wyoming Game & Fish Commissioner Clifford Kirk, which garnered \$11,000.

After nearly 300 people enjoyed the pre-banquet events and a prime rib dinner, entertainment and the live auction ensued. Thanks to the talents of our emcees Kevin Hurley and Ron "Dusty" Lockwood and our fantastic auctioneers, Wyoming FNAWS raised an outstanding amount of money to continue its efforts for wild sheep. Our heartfelt thanks to all of our volunteers, donors, participants and members. Without your support, this organization would not have the resources to accomplish the things it has been able to do over the years.

*Thanks to Freddie Goetz, our faithful photographer*



**Grant In Aid (GIA) Form**

**Wyoming Chapter  
Foundation for  
North American  
Wild Sheep**

	Cost to be funded by WY-FNAWS Grant	Cost to be funded by other cooperators
Equipment .....	\$ _____	\$ _____
Services.....	\$ _____	\$ _____
<b>Permanent, full time salaries will not be considered</b>		
Publishing .....	\$ _____	\$ _____
Monitoring .....	\$ _____	\$ _____
Supplies .....	\$ _____	\$ _____
Please itemize then total		
Other (Specify) .....	\$ _____	\$ _____
Totals.....	\$ _____	\$ _____

**OTHER ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDING FINANCIAL AID OR SUPPORT OF THE PROJECT (Include any pending amounts applied for.)**

**ENDORSEMENT**

I hereby agree to abide by the stated requirements of a WY-FNAWS grant. I also understand all WY-FNAWS funding stipulations and will provide all necessary reports if I receive a grant from WY-FNAWS.

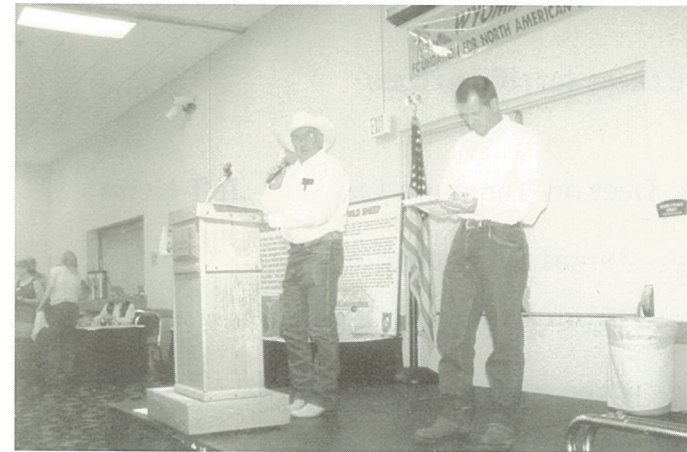
Signature of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

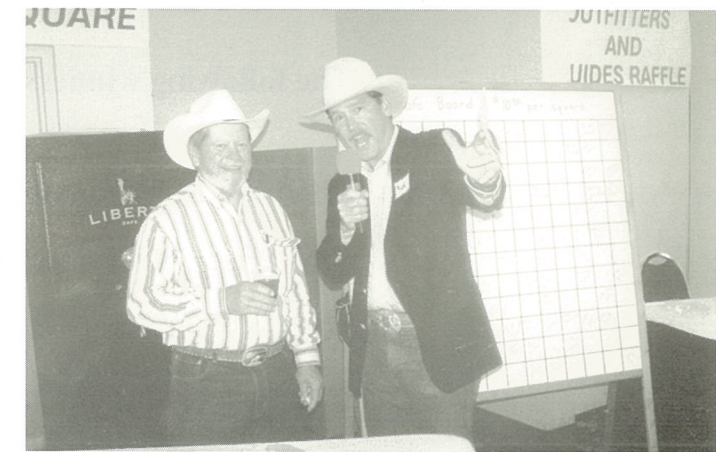
**MEDIA CONTACTS**

Please list one or more media sources in your area that we may contact with details of your project:

**Sheridan – Another Great Success!**



Auctioneers Larry Brannian and Dan Gay keep the bids coming



Rick Pallister and Bob Jacob drummed up more business for the Gun Safe Raffle



Dusty Roads (a.k.a. Ron Lockwood) and his trusty horse Ed kept the crowd in stitches



Administrative Assistant Sheri Howe received an honorary life membership



Melanie Woolever of the U.S. Forest Service was the recipient of this year's Ron Ball Award

**The Wyoming Chapter held the Drawing for the 2006 Commissioners License Raffle at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Fundraiser Banquet in Sheridan.**

The following winners took home these terrific prizes:

1st Prize: Wyoming Game & Fish Commissioners Elk, Deer or Pronghorn License – **Jeff Keim**

2nd Prize: 7 Day Caribbean Cruise - **James Schroeder**

3rd Prize: Winchester Rifle Model 70 325 WSM - **Dave Little**

4th Prize: Remington Rifle Model 700 XCR 300 WSM - **Jeff Keim**

5th Prize: Marlin Rifle 450 Guide Gun - **Tom Sauter**

6th Prize: Leupold 10X42 Wind binoculars - **Jim Gibbs**

7th Prize: Zeiss 3-9X 40mm Rifle Scope - **Billy Thrash**

8th Prize: Brunton 10X42 Eterna Binoculars - **Dennis Doran**

9th Prize: Cannon SD400 Digital Camera – **C. Keith West**

10th Prize: \$300.00 Cabela's Gift Certificate - **Jack Picard**

The Wyoming Chapter would like to thank Wyoming Game & Fish Commissioner Ron Lovercheck for providing the Commissioners License and for personally drawing the names of the winners at the fundraiser.

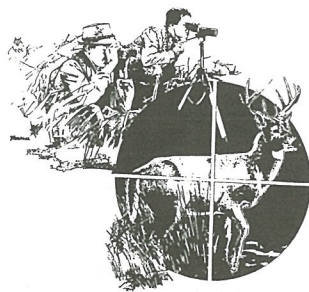
Thanks also go to our continuing supporters for purchasing the tickets.  
The raffle netted \$23,800!



From left to right, Luke, Adam and Dave

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**Grant In Aid (GIA) Form**

**Wyoming Chapter  
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Project Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Type: \_\_\_\_\_  
Waterhole/Transplant/Habitat/Research/Education/Other (Explain)

Affiliate: \_\_\_\_\_  
Outfitter Organization/BLM/Game & Fish/Forest Service/Other (Explain)

Location Of Project: \_\_\_\_\_  
State/Territory/Area

Description Of Project:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Problem to be Solved:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Describe How You Propose Solving Problem:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**BIOGRAPHY OF APPLICANT**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Office Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a current member of FNAWS? \_\_\_ Membership # \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a current member of WY-FNAWS? \_\_\_



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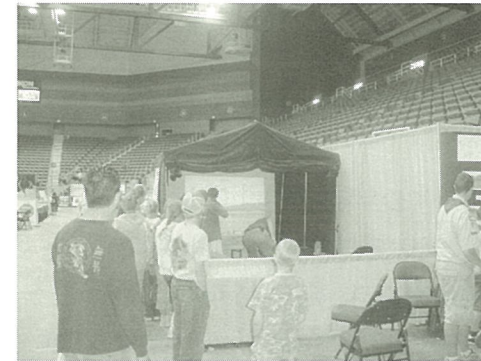
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## Ninth Annual Expo Numbers Top 2005



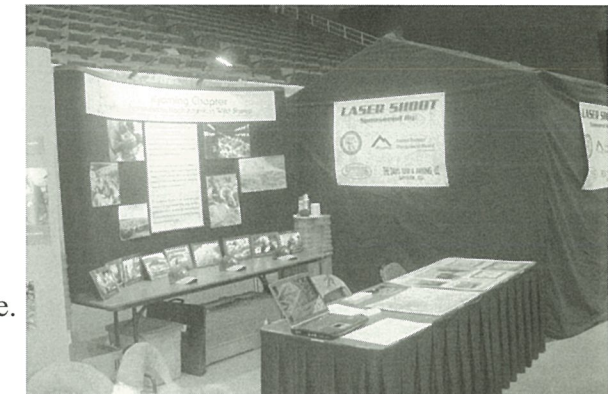
Wyoming FNAWS has been an avid supporter of the 2006 Wyoming Hunting & Fishing Heritage Expo that is held in Casper every year. In addition to giving financial support for the past several years, the Wyoming Chapter is also an exhibitor. This year, the Chapter's laser shot game was included in the exhibit and attendees lined up to take their turn.

The Expo, which took place Sept. 8-10, was well attended this year. According to Wyoming Game & Fish Expo Education Coordinator Patty Stevens, attendance topped out at 12,991 compared to 10,592 in 2005. Every

Wyoming county was represented, as well as Canada, Colorado, Nebraska and Washington State.

Stevens noted that while there was concern that increased gas prices might negatively affect attendance this year, it appeared that Wyoming citizens will travel to quality education event in spite of the high prices. Many of this year's exhibitors also noted that students attending this Expo were more attentive than in years past, and expressed more of an interest to learn.

"Thank you for your on-going support of the Expo," Stevens wrote. "It could not happen without the generous giving of groups such as Wyoming FNAWS in time and money towards producing such a great event (in) the friendly Wyoming way."



## Whiskey Mountain Technical Committee Recognized

The bighorn sheep of the Whiskey Mountain herd south of Dubois have generated legendary status in Wyoming and much of the West, but now the people behind their management have also garnered some well-deserved recognition.

The Whiskey Mountain Bighorn Sheep Technical Committee was honored last March at the 71 North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Columbus, Ohio. The committee received a Conservation Project of the Year Award for nearly 40 years of interagency cooperation and stewardship from the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service.

The technical committee was formed in 1969 and consists of local BLM and Shoshone National Forest wildlife biologists and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department's wildlife biologist, habitat biologist and Dubois game warden. Since its inception, 24 people have served on the committee from the three agencies.

Over the years, approximately 2,000 bighorns from the herd have been trapped and transplanted to bolster other herds or repopulate native range in Wyoming and seven other western states. The herd has also provided recreation for hundreds of hunters and their associates and thousands of wildlife viewers.

To celebrate the national recognition, the technical committee held a reunion of past and present members at Whiskey Mountain May 4. Wyoming Game and Fish Lander Region Wildlife Management Coordinator Tom Ryder reflected on the reunion.

"It was great to see all those dedicated people get together and reminisce about the old days and give advice about the future," Ryder said. "These folks have a lot to be proud of and I'm glad to know 'em."

### Log on to [www.wyomingfnaws.org](http://www.wyomingfnaws.org)!

Visit us often at [www.wyomingfnaws.org](http://www.wyomingfnaws.org) for our Grant-in-Aid Request Form, project updates, the latest news, links and contact information, upcoming events, membership renewals and sign-ups and more.

## Non-Resident Bighorn Sheep

### WGFD Pursues Supplemental BHS Transplant to Laramie Peak (Hunt Area 19)

*By Kevin Hurley, Bob Lanka and Martin Hicks, WGFD*

In an effort to bolster population status, improve genetic diversity, and enhance long-term viability of the Laramie Peak bighorn sheep herd (Hunt Area 19), the Wyoming Game and Fish Department is working with the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (MTFWP) to obtain up to 45 bighorns from MTFWP's Paradise-Perma herd (Hunting District 124) near Thompson Falls. Currently, the Laramie Peak herd is estimated at approximately 200 head, only 40 percent of the herd unit objective of 500 sheep.

A total of 171 bighorns have been released in the Laramie Peak herd unit between 1964-1989, in 6 different transplants from Whiskey Basin, near Dubois. If this proposed transplant goes forward, up to 45 bighorns will be captured in January 2007 on winter ranges in NW Montana and released near the Laramie Peak Wildlife Habitat Management Area (WHMA). In 2002, over 35,000 acres were burned during wildfires occurring in the Laramie Peak area, and habitat conditions have rebounded well in the past four years.

Contacts have been made with local landowners, agricultural producers, organizations, and agencies, wild sheep conservation groups and individuals, federal land-management agencies, and other interested publics. A public meeting was held in Wheatland Nov. 13, and a formal presentation was made by Bob Lanka at the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission meeting in Sundance Nov. 16-17.

This transplant, if implemented, will be funded through the Wyoming Governor's Big Game License Coalition Bighorn Sheep account, and through funding provided by Wyoming FNAWS, national FNAWS, Eastern FNAWS, Minnesota/Wisconsin-FNAWS, and Iowa FNAWS. Global Positioning System (GPS) radio collars will be affixed to 30 adult sheep, to facilitate post-release monitoring, analysis of habitat use/selection patterns, and assessment of bighorn sheep survival.

This transplant should greatly enhance the status and future of the Laramie Peak bighorn sheep herd. Sheep enthusiasts and future sheep hunters will reap the benefits in years to come!

**Join Us for Our Winter Meeting**

**When: Saturday, December 2, 2006**

**Where: Holiday Inn, Cody**

**Time: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

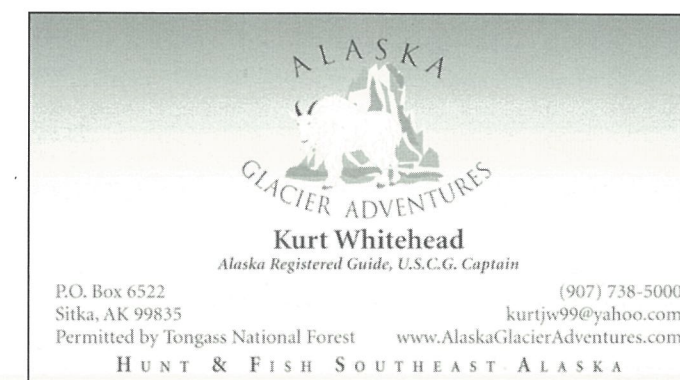
**We hope to see you there!**

#### 2006 Preference Point Draw

#### 2006 Random Draw

Hunt Area	# of Pts	# of Applicants	# of Licenses	Drawing Odds	# of Applicants	# of Licenses	Drawing Odd
1	11	2	3	0.7:1	58	1	58.0:1
2	11	1	5	0.2:1	228	1	228.0:1
3	11	19	8	2.4:1	513	3	171.0:1
4	11	13	8	1.6:1	192	2	96.0:1
5	11	59	11	5.4:1	854	4	213.5:1
6	7	1	1	1.0:1	4	0	-----
7	11	1	2	0.5:1	20	0	-----
8	5	2	1	2.0:1	5	0	-----
9	5	1	1	1.0:1	4	0	-----
10	10	1	2	0.5:1	23	0	-----
11		CLOSED					
12		CLOSED					
15		CLOSED					
16		CLOSED					
17		CLOSED					
18		CLOSED					
19-1	11	2	1	2.0:1	11	0	-----
19-2	10	5	1	5.0:1	11	0	-----
21		CLOSED					
22	11	2	1	2.0:1	71	0	-----
23	10	2	2	1.0:1	15	0	-----
24		CLOSED					
Applications with maximum preference points		103	47	2.2:1	2,009 total non-resident applications	11	

- Guaranteed non-resident license in Hunt Area 6 w/  $\geq 7$  points
- Guaranteed non-resident license in Hunt Area 8 w/  $\geq 6$  points
- Guaranteed non-resident license in Hunt Area 9 w/  $\geq 5$  points
- Guaranteed non-resident license in Hunt Area 10 w/  $\geq 10$  points
- Guaranteed non-resident license in Hunt Area 23 w/  $\geq 10$  points
- Non-resident Preference Point Draw Odds worsened in Hunt Areas 4, 7, 8, 9, 19-1, 22 (compared to 2005)
- Non-resident Random Draw Odds worsened in Hunt Areas 2, 3 and 6 (compared to 2005)
- 164 non-residents put in for Hunt Areas 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 19, 22 and 23 w/ no license in Random Draw
- Hunt Areas 7 and 10 "rolled over" to next level down





## Resident Bighorn Sheep

### 2006 Preference Point Draw

Hunt Area	# of Pts	# of Applicants	# of Licenses	Drawing Odds	# of Applicants	# of Licenses	Drawing Odd
1	11	20	9	2.2:1	227	3	75.7:1
2	11	13	14	1.0:1	278	4	69.5:1
3	11	73	25	2.9:1	596	8	74.5:1
4	11	52	23	2.3:1	516	7	73.7:1
5	11	255	34	7.5:1	1369	11	124.5:1
6	10	4	2	2.0:1	34	1	34.0:1
7	11	22	5	4.4:1	276	1	276.0:1
8	11	13	2	6.5:1	114	1	114.0:1
9	11	4	2	2.0:1	74	1	74.0:1
10	11	49	5	9.8:1	284	1	284.0:1
11		CLOSED					
12		CLOSED					
15		CLOSED					
16		CLOSED					
17		CLOSED					
18		CLOSED					
19-1	11	35	2	17.5:1	207	1	207.0:1
19-2	11	2	2	1.0:1	19	1	19.0:1
21		CLOSED					
22	11	8	2	4.0:1	89	1	89.0:1
23	11	21	5	4.2:1	128	1	128.0:1
24		CLOSED					
Applications with maximum preference points		567	132	4.3:1	4,211 total resident applications	42	

- Most Resident Licenses in Preference Point Draw required maximum points (N=11)
- Preference Point Draw odds worsened in Hunt Areas 4 and 7 (compared to 2005)
- Random Draw Odds worsened in Hunt Areas 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8 and 22 (compared to 2005)
- 306 residents w/ maximum points put in for their 11<sup>th</sup> point
- Hunt Areas 2 and 6 “rolled over” to next level down for some licenses

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## Little Venus Fire & Wyoming's Bighorn Sheep Hunt Area 5

By Kevin Hurley, Wildlife Management Coordinator, Wyoming Game Fish Department, Cody

A lightning storm rolled through the Greybull River country approximately 30 miles west of Meeteetse in mid-June, sparking a wildfire 10 miles inside the Washakie Wilderness of NW Wyoming's famed Shoshone National Forest. Home to more bighorn sheep than any other forest in the national forest system, Shoshone NF fire and resource specialists opted to manage this fire, rather than moving to immediate suppression. A decade-long drought had exacerbated a dramatic beetle-kill of mature pine, fir, and spruce trees in the Greybull River drainage. Since this fire was well inside designated wilderness, managers decided to let fire play its ecological role and clean up some of the standing dead trees on the area's steep, rugged slopes. Almost four weeks after ignition, the perimeter of the Little Venus Fire was estimated at 715 acres.

By mid-July, strong winds, hot temperatures, and low relative humidity escalated this fire, with the perimeter growing to over 7,000 acres by July 20. After monitoring this fire for over a month, Shoshone NF managers moved to suppression mode along the fire's eastern border, as it approached the forest boundary and threatened ranch buildings and structures off forest. Dramatic fire behavior resulted in significant suppression response. Additional resources were called in, and ground and aerial suppression held this fire inside the forest boundary. The USFS also made the decision to close the entire Greybull River drainage, above the NF boundary at Jack Creek, to non-firefighting personnel. The fire was allowed to continue burning to the west, up-country and inside the Washakie Wilderness.

Since 1971, Hunt Area 5 has offered 60 ram licenses each year, and over 1,000 rams have been harvested from this hunt area in just the past 23 years. Hunt Area 5 is widely recognized as the largest bighorn sheep hunt area in the lower 48 states. With that much sheep hunting possibly affected for fall 2006, phone calls started coming in from resident and non-resident hunters and their outfitters.

From shortly after this fire was first reported, Cody Region WGFD personnel had been in close contact with the Shoshone NF on management of this fire. The Greybull River closure area had historically provided ~40% of the annual ram harvest from Hunt Area 5, so WGFD wildlife managers set wheels into motion to give 2006 hunters an option, should the fire remain active and the closure remain in place. Wyoming Game and Fish Commission regulations stipulate that if a sheep, moose, or mountain goat hunter is unable to use his/her license for good cause (due to a natural disaster), that hunter may opt to reserve the same license for the immediately following year. WGFD field managers worked with our Wildlife Division Administration and our Director's office to send a letter to all 60 hunters in Hunt Area 5 by August 1, to give sufficient time for hunters to make their decisions. Since this “carryover” request must be in writing and received in WGFD HQ in Cheyenne prior to the first day of any open season, hunters had a 12-14 day window to make their choice, ahead of the August 15<sup>th</sup> archery-season opener.

Long story short, in mid-August, the Shoshone National Forest reduced the fire-related closure to 6 tributary drainages (i.e., Anderson, Eleanor, Vick, Warehouse, Betty, and Piney Creeks) on the west side of the Greybull River. A total of 19 hunters (of the 60 licenses issued) opted to turn their 2006 licenses in and reserve a license for next fall (2007).

As of this writing (3 days prior to the September 1 rifle opener), the perimeter of the Little Venus Fire is estimated to cover almost 35,000 acres. Smoke still rises from the upper reaches of the fire area, but much of the bighorn sheep habitat that burned did so in a very mosaic fashion. Only a few upper basins have been burned, and by the time you read this, snows will have put this fire out. Time will tell what the benefits/impacts of this fire truly are. Since most bighorn sheep habitat in the Rocky Mountains relies on periodic fire to keep forage quality and habitat visibility high, the Little Venus Fire is judged by many (including me!) as being of significant long-term benefit for Wyoming's largest bighorn sheep area. Future sheep hunters might reflectback about the summer of 2006, and the Little Venus Fire in Hunt Area 5. For now, at least 2/3 of this year's hunters are packing gear and heading for sheep country!

Wyoming Game and Fish Department managers will closely monitor this fall's hunter success, track the average age of harvested rams, assess the effort (i.e., number of days) required to harvest rams, and analyze comments from hunters and outfitters, as to how the 2006 sheep hunting was in Hunt Area 5. Following our mid-winter age/sex classification flights and an assessment of this winter's severity, spring 2007 season-setting will determine how many licenses will be issued for next fall, in addition to the 19 licenses that already have someone's name printed on them!

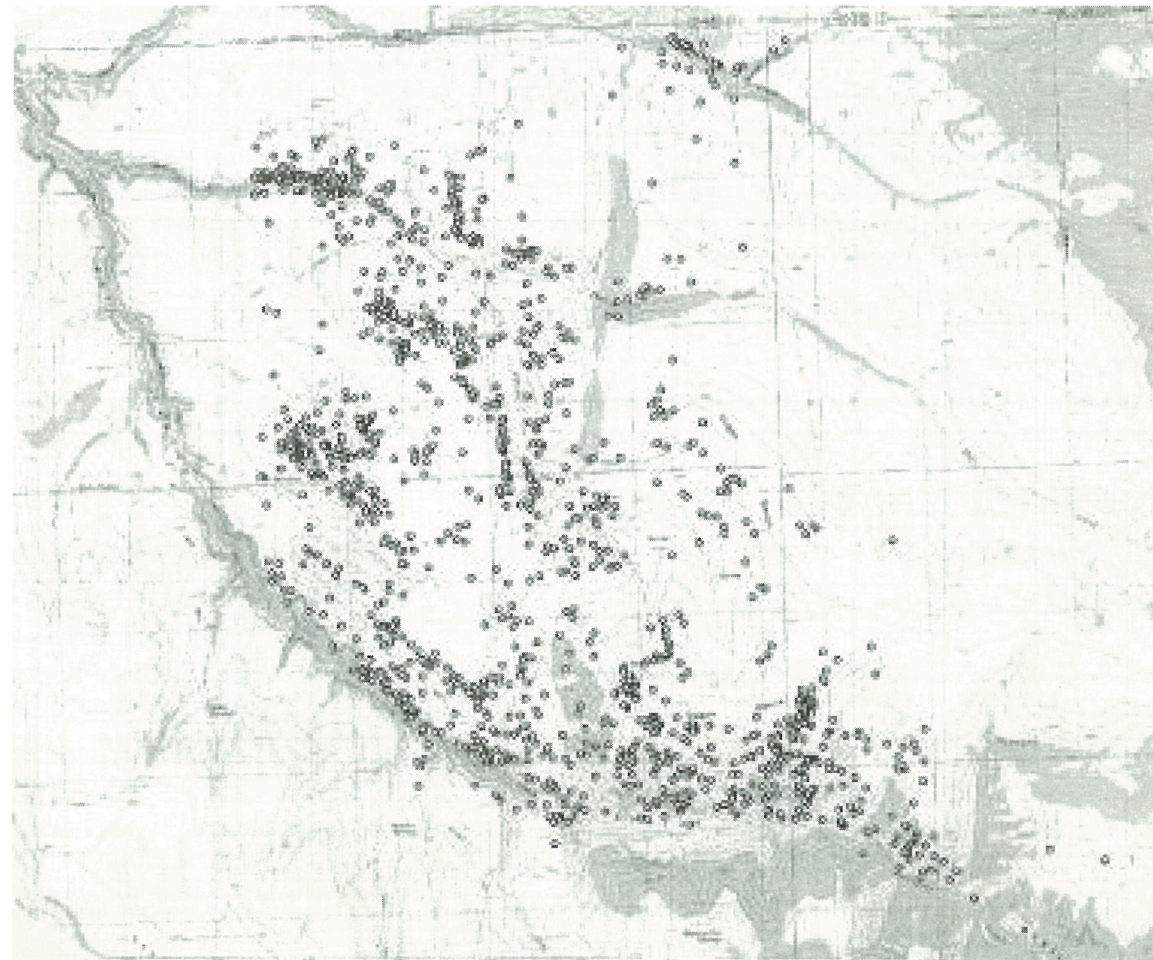
*Editor's Note: As of Oct. 12, 33 of the 43 Hunt Area 5 hunters filled their tags and many nice rams were taken. 7*

## Devil's Canyon Ewe Death Not Due to Predation

In mid-August 2006, Wyoming Game and Fish Greybull wildlife biologist Tom Easterly discovered a dead radio-collared bighorn ewe. This ewe was one of six from Devil's Canyon that were radio-collared in March 2004, prior to any supplemental transplant of sheep. Cause of death was not readily apparent, but based on evidence at the scene, Easterly concluded her death was **not** due to mountain lion predation. This animal was a very old ewe, based on tooth wear, and probably died of old age.

Easterly downloaded the relocation data from the ewe's GPS collar; the map below shows her radio-locations (taken three times a day) from December 28, 2004 to August 10, 2006. As the map shows, this ewe utilized almost all portions of the Devil's Canyon study area, south of the Montana state line.

Monitoring continues on the radio-collared Wyoming, Oregon, and Montana bighorns. Once all the collars drop off in October 2007 and are collected, the relocation data will be downloaded from each collar and seasonal movements/habitat use will be analyzed carefully. This is another good example of how updated technology provides the ability to gather useful data.



# H U N T R E P O R T

## A Three-Antlered Bull

By Cole Benton, WY FNAWS President



On Sept. 29, 2005, two of my guides had been out scouting for deer for the Oct. 1 opening. Pat Monroe and Josh Martoglio came in to our lodge, very excited about a large bull elk they had just seen north of us about two miles.

The three of us went back to where he had been, so I could look at him. Although a short amount of time had elapsed, the bull had moved into the timber. We waited him out. Both guides, knowing I had a license for this area, wanted me to take the bull. I still had two elk hunters coming in and I said I wouldn't shoot an elk until they filled their tags.

Suddenly, the elk came out of the cover, along with several cows, calves and younger bulls. It was hard to believe what we were looking at. His right antler was a beautiful seven point. On the left were two full-size antlers. One good look and they were gone. It shouldn't be hard to find this bull again, as all of these elk stay here all year. We filled the two elk hunters along with our deer and antelope hunters. We saw a lot of game and never saw the three-antlered bull again. Should I have shot him?

One year and six days later, Oct. 5, 2006, my son Tyler had a half-day break in between guiding deer and antelope hunts. Tyler asked to take advantage of these short few hours and hunt an elk for himself. We only had one elk hunter yet to come in, but not until Oct. 20. There seemed to be plenty of elk around, so I told him to go ahead.

Tyler was accompanied by Curt Shatzer, who is a WY FNAWS board member. They said when the elk were located, there was a cow in heat and bulls everywhere. They had their attention on a large bull and went after him, when out of the blue came this same three-antlered bull from over a year ago. Tyler said it didn't take long to change his efforts to this bull. Two great things happened: Tyler was able to harvest this wonderful elk and Curt filmed the entire hunt.

After a closer look, there were definitely three individual antlers. The bull gross-scored nearly 370.

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### Share Your Hunt Story!

If you have a hunt story that you'd like to share, we want to print it! Just send it to Wyoming FNAWS and we'll publish it in *The Rampage*. Photos are also welcome. Send your story and photo to:

Wyoming FNAWS  
P.O. Box 845  
Dubois, WY 82513

You can also e-mail them to: [info@wyomingfnaws.org](mailto:info@wyomingfnaws.org). If you e-mail a photo, 300 dpi in a jpeg format is preferred.