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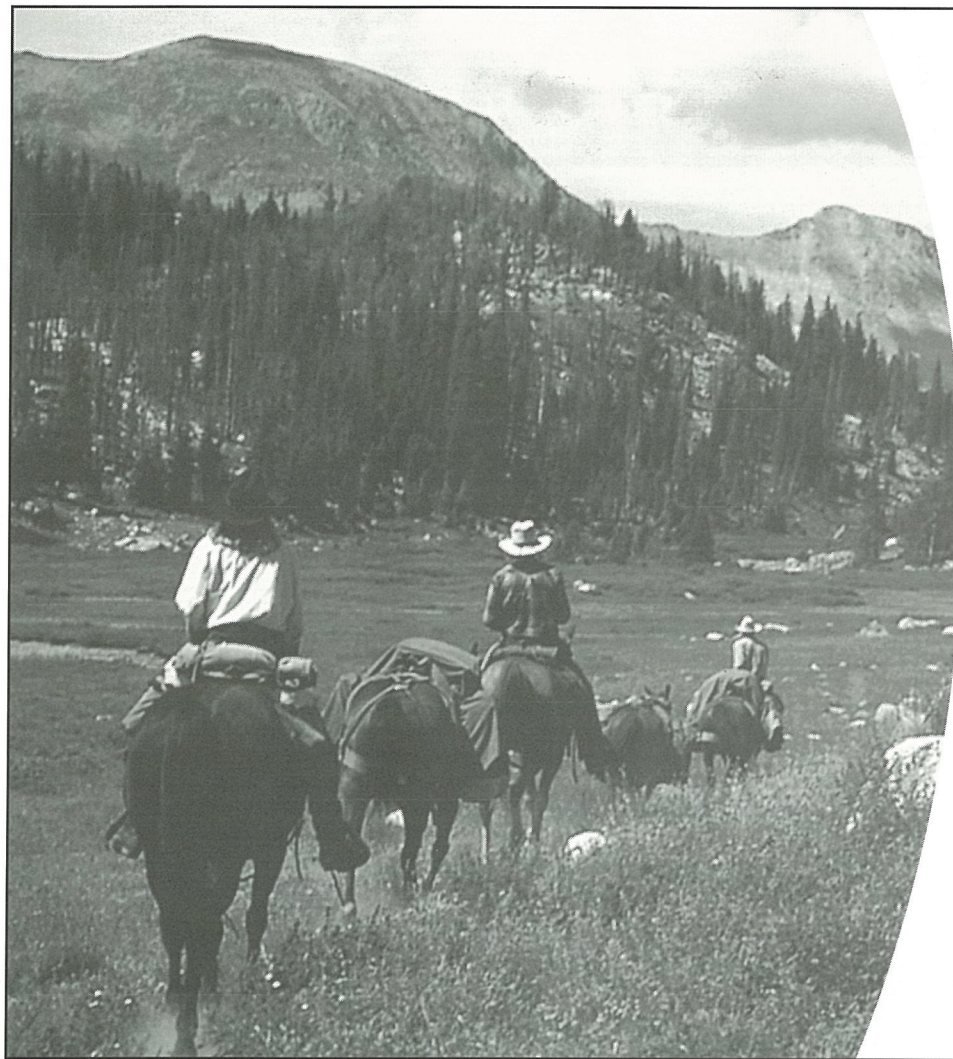
The RAMPAGE

Wyoming Chapter FNAWS

WINTER 2006



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Wyoming FNAWS Board and Membership Meetings

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 Grant-In-Aid request form is available on the Wyoming FNAWS Web site at www.wyomingfnaws.org and on Page 12 of this newsletter. The mailing address is Wyoming FNAWS, P.O. Box 845, Dubois, WY 82513

WYOMING CHAPTER FNAWS

The RAMPAGE Magazine

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1/8 PAGE	\$ 35.00

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



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		#139	Opey Hlavnicka		

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.

Annual Membership _____ \$15.00

3-Year Membership _____ \$40.00

Lifetime Membership _____ \$300.00

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Name _____ Telephone # _____

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City _____

*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 _____

Zip Code _____ Phone Number _____

E-Mail Address _____

President's Message

Greetings from the great state of Wyoming. It's hard to tell if it's winter or spring here. We started out in December with a good winter, with lots of snow and drifts big enough that the snowplow was having to run to keep the county road open. Temperatures dropped to 25 degrees below zero. January came and the temperatures have been in the 50s and above. All of the snow – except for a few drifts – is gone and my hopes of full reservoirs left with it.

The positive side is how well the wildlife is wintering. My guess is if we're going to go back to a normal winter, it will happen when the first calf or lamb hits the ground.

And now for the big news: After a year of work from our Wyoming Game and Fish Department liaison Kevin Hurley, our second set of 20 bighorn sheep have been released at Devil's Canyon. These sheep came out of the Missouri Breaks in Montana. Remember, last year's sheep came out of Oregon – the same sheep from the same type of habitat, released into like habitat. These two supplemental transplants with a total of 40 sheep should really give the original herd a big boost. Let's hope for the best.

One of our next projects for Devil's Canyon is going to be the collaring of four mature rams. Our Bighorn National Forest is furnishing the collars for the Game and Fish. Our Game and Fish will handle the capture, collaring and tracking of these rams.

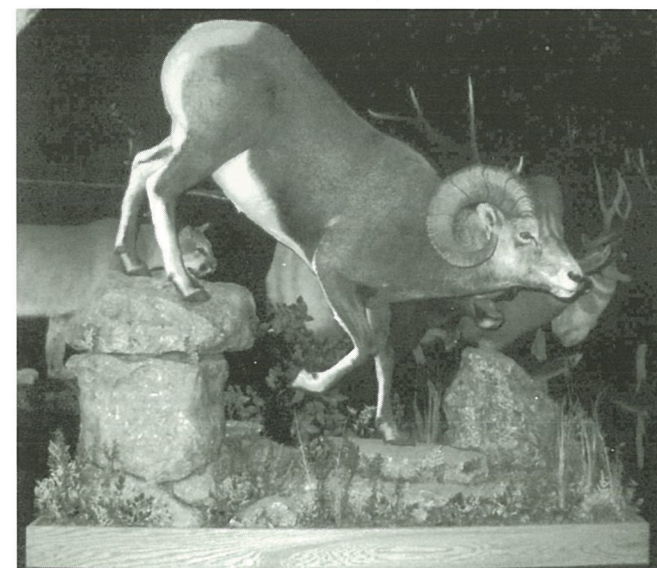
The third and last year of the Whiskey Mountain predator control project has just ended. Wyoming FNAWS board members will meet with Wyoming Game and Fish in April in Lander to look at our results and decide what we will or will not do on Whiskey Mountain in the upcoming years. Following this meeting will be a Wyoming FNAWS board meeting in Thermopolis – a combination business and fundraiser meeting.

It was good to be in Reno for National's annual convention. We packed up our Chapter booth and set it up in the exhibit area and had a great time. I would like to thank National FNAWS for helping to hose our first evening prior to the supplemental transplant in Devil's Canyon. Fun was had by all.

There are a lot of things happening in the wild sheep world. Between the *Rampage*, the *Conservation Connection* and WY FNAWS' Web site, we'll try to keep everyone updated on what is happening. Don't forget the WY FNAWS convention on June 9th and 10th in Sheridan, Wyoming.

Be sure to have safe travels wherever you may be headed.

Cole Benton



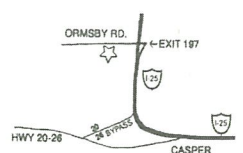
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- Renew or join for one year \$45.00
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\$15.00 savings
- FamilyMember - \$80.00
- International Member - \$100.00
(non-North American)
- Company Member - \$200.00
- Junior Member - \$10.00 - for ages 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
- Check here if you are an artist



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Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____ Zip: _____

Office Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

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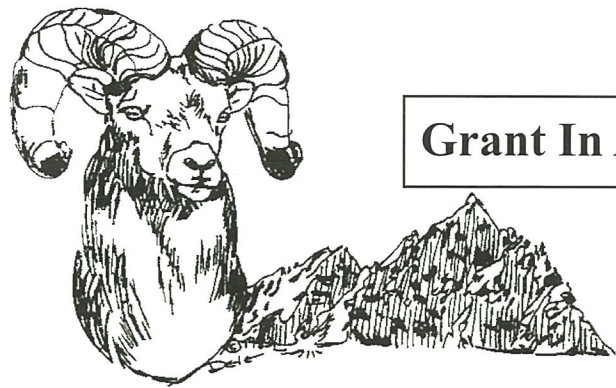
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Visit us often at www.wyomingfnaws.org for project updates, the latest news, links and contact information, upcoming events, membership renewals and sign-ups and more.



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	\$ _____	\$ _____
Permanent, full time salaries will not be considered		
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:

A Second Transplant in Devil's Canyon

After three weather related postponements, the window of opportunity for Wyoming finally opened when Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Department resumed their bighorn sheep capture effort—resulting in 20 Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep for the northwest flank of the Bighorn Mountains.

The transplant of 13 ewes, two yearling rams, and five lambs took place January 19. This completes the second and final phase of the Devil's Canyon supplemental bighorn sheep transplant project. The sheep were released on the north rim of Devil's Canyon, northeast of Lovell.

“We are very happy that the final phase of this transplant project is complete,” said Kevin Hurley, Wyoming Game and Fish Department's Cody region wildlife management coordinator. “It was frustrating at times. Logistically, there is a great deal of coordination that must take place, but once the sheep were captured and arrived safely in Lovell, everything came together in a very efficient manner,” he said.

Department personnel left the capture area near Havre, MT around 3 p.m. on Wednesday, January 18. They arrived in Lovell shortly after midnight. The following morning, approximately 30 individuals converged in the Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area's Horseshoe Bend marina parking lot to begin the transplant. Upon the arrival of two helicopters from Billings MT Flying Service, workers were transported to the release site and ground crews manned their positions.

Utilizing a specially designed transport cage, eleven bighorns were transferred from the “ewe haul” horse trailer into the cage and then long-lined to the release site by a 1973 Vietnam war-era Huey helicopter. The remaining nine sheep were transported in the same manner during a second trip.

“All of the sheep were fitted with either a radio collar or ear tag transmitter immediately after their capture in Montana, thereby eliminating the need to physically handle the sheep once they arrived in Wyoming,” Hurley said. He added that the sheep would be monitored very closely for the next couple of years.

The first phase of this project was completed in December 2004, when 14 ewes, three lambs and three rams captured in the Lower Deschutes River area of Oregon were transplanted to Devil's Canyon. Thirty-one years earlier, 39 sheep from the Whiskey Basin area near Dubois, Wyoming were transplanted to Devil's Canyon, but only a few remained.

With the latest release of Montana bighorns, the population estimate for the Devil's Canyon herd is approximately 110; the population objective is 200.

“As we near our objective, we hope to allow a limited amount of hunting and will begin to consider using this herd as a source herd for transplanting bighorns into other low elevation sites,” Hurley said.

There are currently 15 distinct bighorn herd units in Wyoming. According to Hurley, eight core, native herds occur in the Absaroka, Teton, Gros Ventre, and Wind River Mountains. These herds represent over 90% of Wyoming's wild sheep.

Funding for this project has largely come via the generosity of Wyoming Governor Dave Freudenthal. In 2003, the Governor dedicated all proceeds from the auction/raffle of 20 annual Wyoming Governor's complimentary big game licenses to fund projects to benefit Wyoming's wildlife. The Wyoming Chapter of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep is also a major partner and supporter of the Devil's Canyon supplemental transplant.



Another Chance at Life

By Cole Benton

All of our hunters from our second hunt had departed by noon on October 10.

Immediately after, our guests for third and final hunt in Wyoming started arriving. In this group were three gentlemen from California. Two of them, Ron Toste and Steve Schaad, have been repeat customers for several years. The third person, Dave Graff, was hunting with us for the first time.

I normally don't take more than two hunters with me at a time, but they asked if I would take all three of them as a group.

Toste and Graff had deer tags and Schaad had an elk tag. Everyone wanted to be involved in the elk hunt.

It had rained, turned to snow and rained again, and we had over three inches of moisture. Due to the mud, our vehicles were at a standstill except on the shale county road.

I explained to the hunters that all hunting would be done on foot and ATVs would be used only to retrieve game. Everyone waited to start out the next morning, to get in a full day of hunting.

The first day started with the wind coming from the wrong direction. I explained to the hunters that due to the wind, we would have to walk north to the Montana state line, cross two drainages to the west and then hunt to the south.

We got out of my pickup just at first light. The march north went well. We glassed several nice buck deer, one of which was exceptional. I wanted no shooting until I knew if there were any elk and where they were.

When we hit the state line and started west, the walking became easier. The timbered country has soil that is sandy and we didn't have to deal with the mud. As we reached the second drainage where I wanted to start hunting south, the wind changed and was now out of the north. Just what we didn't need.

This area is full of old homesteads and we were passing within 100 yards of one of them. Schaad wanted to look around and I said, "Go ahead."

We had just separated when he started hollering at me. This was not sitting too well with me. We had just walked several hours to get here, the wind had changed and now this guy is making enough noise to empty most of northern Wyoming of anything on four legs.

I ran back to tell him to be quiet, but he was making all kinds of hand signals, none of which I understood. When I finally got him settled down, he told me what happened.

When Schaad had approached the homestead to get a better view, the cellar exploded with activity.

At some point during the recent storm, this large six-by-seven bull elk had walked out on the cellar roof and fell through. With his large antlers, all he could do was stand up or down. His left antler was hooked in a supporting post and a lot of the hair was gone from his back.

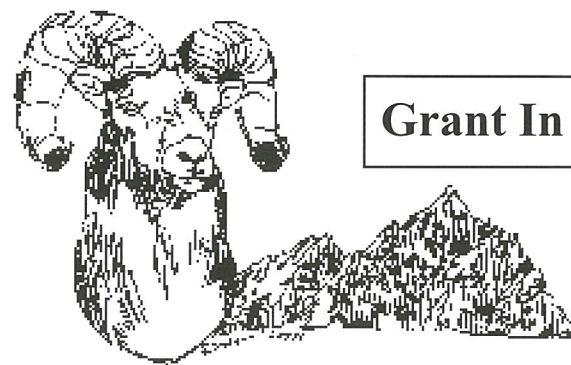
We all agreed that saving this elk was now the priority.

We quickly hunted our way out, passing up several nice deer. We reached the county road about 4:30 that afternoon and raced back to headquarters. I loaded up an ATV, rope, chainsaw, shovel chains and a de-horning saw.

Schaad and I went back to the elk, knowing darkness was close and that this poor bull



continued on page 5



Grant In Aid (GIA) Form

Wyoming Chapter Foundation for North American Wild Sheep

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? _____ Membership # _____

WY FNAWS Board Member Curt Shatzer Enjoys a Successful Hunt

In May of 2003, my father, four friends and I booked a Dall sheep hunt in the Wrangell Mountains. Due to some past hunts, Bob Eubank was the going to be the outfitter of choice.

FNAWS member Allen Mooney, along with Jerry and Shane Hampshire, would be going on the first hunt from August 10th through the 17th. They had good weather and excellent success killing three rams in four days of hunting.

Jerry Shatzer, Tim Bishop and I met the first group in Anchorage on they're way out We got to admire the beautiful rams measuring 34½" to 37 ½". They also brought a 38½" ram that was found to be a recent wolf kill. I'm sure the ram was either dying of old age or deathly ill, (that's all the wolves prey on, right?)

Our hunt was to begin on the 18th and run through the 26th. For some reason, luck was on my side. Veteran sheep guide Larry Fiedler and I were dropped off on a remote air strip with the intention of backpacking a spike camp several miles up the huge valley. With the rain falling, we elected to stay at the airstrip and pack up in the morning.

Crawling out of the tent and seeing three rams directly above the tent was definitely the way I like to start things. One ram was borderline full curl and the others were ¾ curl. After a quick oatmeal and coffee breakfast, we began packing up only the necessities. Loaded with 45 to 50 pounds each, we started our journey to sheep camp. Not more than an hour up the trail, Larry spotted several head of sheep scattered across the steep hillside. Two of the sheep were obviously rams and one of them required a closer look. When looking through the spotting scope, Larry judged him to be a wide flaring over full curl sheep. I made the mistake of looking for my self; my heart took a 20-beats-per-minute jump. He looked to be more than I ever hoped for. We dropped the excess gear and began a quick stalk. We closed the distance to 425 yards. Larry had the task of calming the overexcited hunter down. After waiting for the correct shot angle and the cross hairs to settle, the dream of harvesting a Dall sheep became a reality. The ram measured 36 x 13.

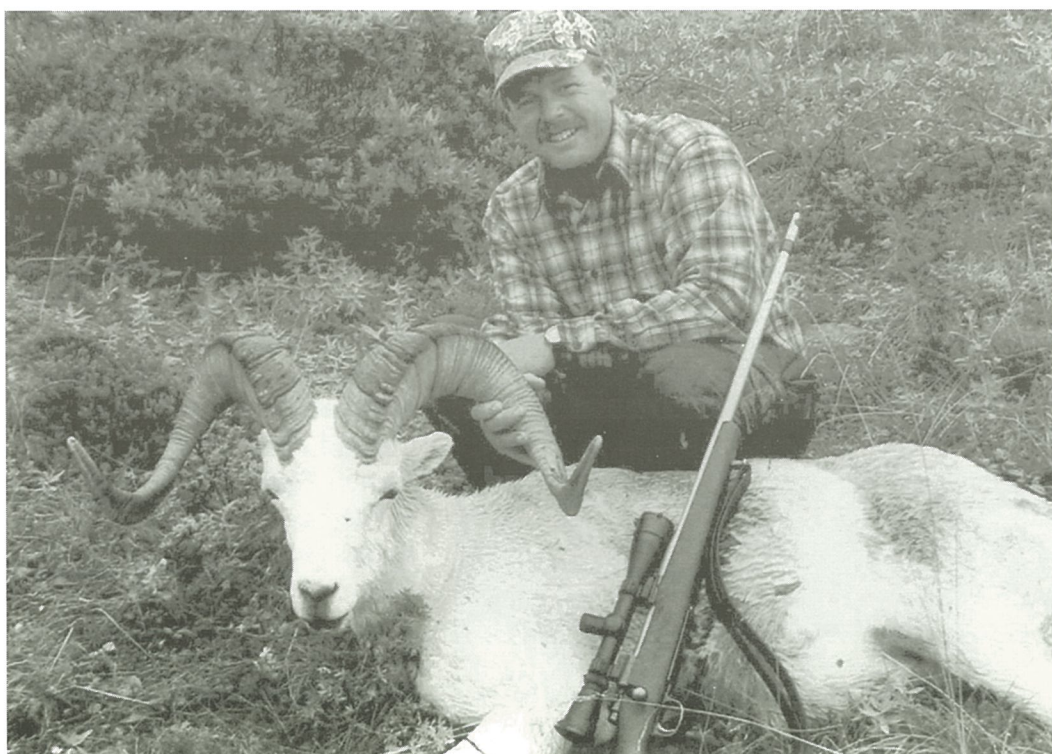
After catching the next Super Cub cab back to the base camp, Larry suggested we pack up a different river and hunt for wolf and bear. Not long after setting up camp, I headed down to the river for some water. When stepping off the bank on to the river bed, I ran into a big gray wolf at no more than 10 yards. Whistling to stop the wolf at 30 yards made for an easy shot. Hopefully this will save a few sheep lives in the future.

Thanks to extreme winds, rain, fog and very lucky sheep, Tim and Jerry were not able to harvest sheep, although two exceptionally large rams were spotted. After a long six-hour climb, we were just in time to see the monarchs disappearing over the next ridge.

Return arrangements have already been made for Jerry and Tim. The only thing I regret about killing my ram is that I don't get to come back.

With four sheep measuring 34½" to 37½" and superior guides, the trip was a huge success.

Bob also guides hunts for brown bear, moose and caribou on the Alaskan Peninsula. For more info on hunting with Bob, contact him at 907-223-2089 or me at 307-685-2158.



Another Chance *continued from page 4*

had little time left. I starting shoveling dirt off of the supporting timbers of the remaining roof and told Schaad to be careful because the rest of the roof could cave in. I didn't want either one of us to end up on top of those antlers or under his hooves.

After removing the dirt from the timbers over the cellar hallway, I broke off the rotten boards and chainsawed the two big supporting timbers to give him an opening to get out. We then shoveled more dirt from both sides so the hallway would be V-shaped to allow for his antlers.

We thought everything was right for his escape, but he would not move. Maybe a little persuasion would help.

We got the shovel and an old 4x4 behind him and pried on his hindquarters. I learned something new real quick. Elk can kick faster and more repeatedly than any mule, cow or horse. Now all the elk wants to do is look over his shoulder at us, instead of taking the escape route.

I put a rope on one tine of the left antler and pulled his head around so he would look at the opening. With his head pulled around and facing the right direction, we pried on him again. Same result; all he wanted to do was fight and kick. He was also starting to paw the ground with a front hoof. This was not a friendly sign.

Schaad said maybe we should leave him for a few minutes and maybe he would get out on his own. All the elk did was try to figure out where we went.

Maybe if we removed more of the roof, it would allow him more room. As I was doing this, Schaad asked what to do if the bull got out and turned on us instead of leaving.

I said, "Kill him. If you don't, he will try to kill us." A terrible thought, but those horns would be deadly if he attacked.

After caving more of the roof in, it looked like he had plenty of room. Again we got the shovel and 4x4 and pried on him. He has plenty of room now, because he made a lunge at us with those big antlers and almost got turned around in the cellar. That's enough; he sees the opening.

He is terribly mad and dangerous, so before one of us gets hurt, we let him stand and get his bearings. When he calms down and it gets dark, maybe he will leave on his own. We returned to our hunting lodge about 8 p.m. that night and called the local game warden, Alan Osterland, to tell him the story. We talked about tranquilizing the elk the next day and dragging him out of the cellar if he hadn't left on his own and arrangements were made.

The following morning at daybreak, we returned to the homestead. We were very happy to see that the bull had walked out on his own during the night and was nowhere to be seen.

I would like to express my gratitude to our three California hunters for giving up precious hunting time for the sake of saving the life of this majestic animal.



Mark Your Calendars for Next Year's Annual Fundraiser

Banquet and Membership Meeting:

When: June 10, 2006

Where: Sheridan Holiday Inn
Sheridan, Wyoming

More details to come – watch your mail and our Web site!

Melanie Woolever of the United States Forest Service has been instrumental in the conservation efforts of Wyoming's bighorn sheep. Wyoming FNAWS submitted this letter of commendation and is further recognizing Ms. Woolever's contributions with the Ron Ball Memorial Award.

Mr. Dale Bosworth
 Chief, U.S. Forest Service
 1400 Independence Avenue SW
 Washington, DC 20250-0003

Dear Chief Bosworth:

On behalf of the Wyoming Chapter of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep (WY-FNAWS), I would like to write this letter of thanks to, and commendation for, one of your USFS employees, Ms. Melanie Woolever of your Region II office in Golden, Colorado. Through the past decade, our involvement with Ms. Woolever has occurred in her role as Wildlife Program Lead for the Rocky Mountain Region, and most importantly, in her role as the USFS "Full Curl" Program Lead. As you well know, most of the wild sheep habitat in the western U.S. occurs on national forest system lands; in Wyoming, over 90% of our bighorn sheep habitat occurs on Region II and Region IV-managed forest lands.

For many years, Ms. Woolever has been deeply involved in bighorn sheep habitat management issues in Wyoming, from forest planning to energy development, and from domestic sheep/bighorn sheep interaction to public outreach and education about bighorn sheep and their habitats. Ms. Woolever represents your agency well in issues management, discussions, and negotiations, and also stands up for the wildlife resource that organizations such as ours are focused on. It's probably not too often that top agency administrators receive positive feedback about one of their employees; in this case, we sincerely want to acknowledge Ms. Woolever's contributions to the well-being and future of bighorn sheep in Wyoming.

In our 22-year existence, we have only presented our foremost award (the Ron Ball Memorial Award, named for one of our founding members and long-time organization president) three times. Past recipients include Wyoming Game and Fish Department wildlife/bighorn sheep biologist Kevin Hurley, Wyoming FNAWS Past-President Jim Collins, and current Wyoming Governor Dave Freudenthal. It is our pleasure and privilege to let you and your staff know that for her career efforts on behalf of bighorn sheep and other wildlife, our Ron Ball Memorial Award will be presented in 2006 to Ms. Melanie Woolever. We hope in our small way to thank her for her commitment to, and efforts for, Wyoming's wild sheep. Please share this announcement and our thanks with your staff and personnel. We hope that Melanie can join us at our 2006 Convention in Sheridan, WY on June 10th, to be presented this award. Thanks for the efforts of the U.S. Forest Service in managing so much wild sheep habitat in the western United States.

Sincerely,
 Cole Benton, President
 Wyoming Chapter FNAWS



From left to right, Luke, Adam and Dave

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A Sheep Addict's Dream Come True

One of the best kept secrets in the sheep hunting world today is the fair chase and free ranging Barbary sheep or Aoudad in west Texas. For a fraction of the cost of a Dall, bighorn, or a desert sheep hunt, one can go to west Texas during the "off season" and hunt Aoudad. Introduced into west Texas in the 1950s, the Aoudad have thrived in the arid and cactus strewn environment. The Aoudad is even classified by the Grand Slam Club/Ovis as one of the 44 different species of world sheep.

I originally hunted Aoudad in 2001 near Balmorra, Texas but came up empty due to lack of sheep on the ranch I was hunting. In three days I saw only seven Aoudad for about 90 seconds. But what I saw made me a "sheep addict" for life! In fact, after seeing them I commented to my wife who hunts with me, "No elk ever did that to me."

We went back to west Texas in January 2005 to hunt Aoudad with guide Steve Chapman of Eagle Pass, Texas arranged by Duke Damron of Texas Outfitter Connection. Steve is a former oil and gas engineer with Aoudad leases in Val Verde County. Before the hunt, he said we would see plenty of sheep.

On the opening day of my hunt, Steve was right. At 7:30 am we spotted six Aoudad, two of which were good rams. To our surprise, their horns were interlocked together from fighting or sparring. Steve excitedly said, "Shoot the one on the left, he's the bigger of the two."

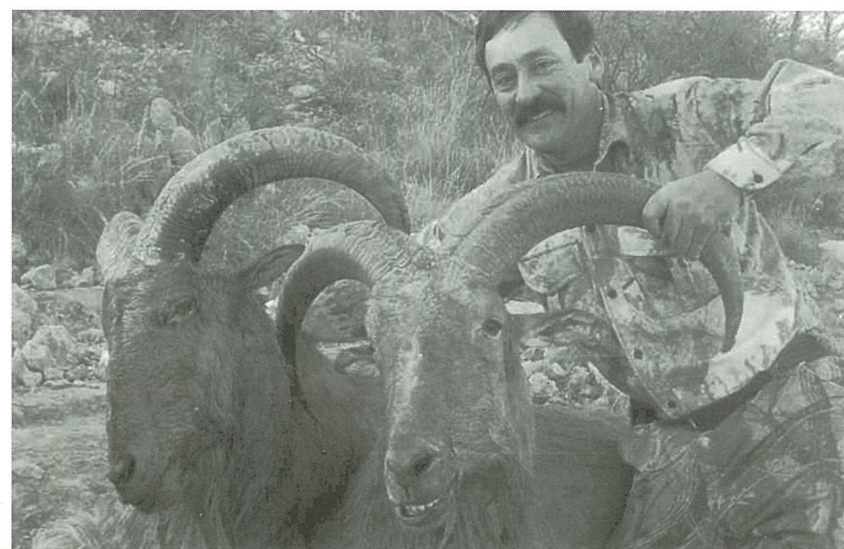
As fate would have it, I was looking through my Zeiss Conquest 3x9 scope at 200 yards into a sunrise at sheep on a shaded hillside. Once I finally picked up the Aoudad in the scope, I settled the crosshairs on the shoulder of the larger ram. Or so I thought.

After firing, Steve said both rams buckled and the larger ram began to drag the smaller ram down the hillside. After about 70 yards, the two separated and the smaller ram fell to the ground. The larger ram began to stagger away mortally wounded. One more insurance shot from my 7mm magnum with a 175 grain Nosier Partition bullet and my Aoudad hunt was complete.

When we got to the rams we found the first shot had fatally wounded both rams. The larger ram was hit in the neck with a clean pass through which then entered the second ram in the jaw and head area. Steve said in all his years of guiding Aoudad hunters he has never seen two Aoudad rams interlocked by their horns. And he was astounded that two rams could be shot with one bullet! Typically Aoudad are tough desert sheep, vary wary with excellent vision, and difficult to put down even with a well placed shot. I guess the sheep gods were looking out for me.

While horn length of 30 inches or better is considered an excellent trophy, my Aoudad taped 27 inches by 12 inches and 25 inches by 12 inches respectively. They sure looked big to me and will make an excellent addition to my trophy room. I can only imagine what a true 33 inch Aoudad must look like. Probably a freight train engine!

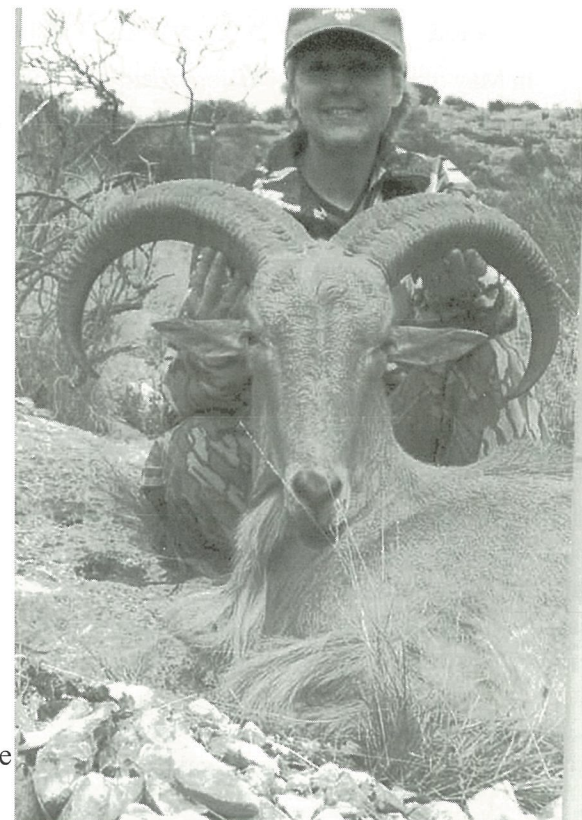
Day three arrived foggy and cloudy. Using my Kahles 10 x 42 binoculars I was able to glass six Aoudad across a canyon at 1200 yards. I then guided my wife on a two and a half hour stalk for her Aoudad. It measured 25 inches by 11 1/2 inches and is a true trophy in her hunting career. How many women in America have harvested a fair chase and free ranging Aoudad?



Hopefully this Aoudad sheep hunt was the sign of good things for 2005. As a Wyoming resident, I have the maximum of 10 sheep preference points. In September 2005 I hope to harvest my first Rocky Mountain Bighorn.

Finally, I would like to thank Duke Damron with Texas Outfitter Connection and my guide Steve Chapman. I would also like to thank the staff at the Western Optics Hunter Magazine and Outdoorsmans in Phoenix. With their advice about quality optics like Kahles binoculars and Zeiss rifle scopes, my wife and I were able to harvest three nice Aoudad rams.

Stu Mauney and Sandy Williams
 Evanston, Wyoming



Harvey completes his slam – unexpectedly!

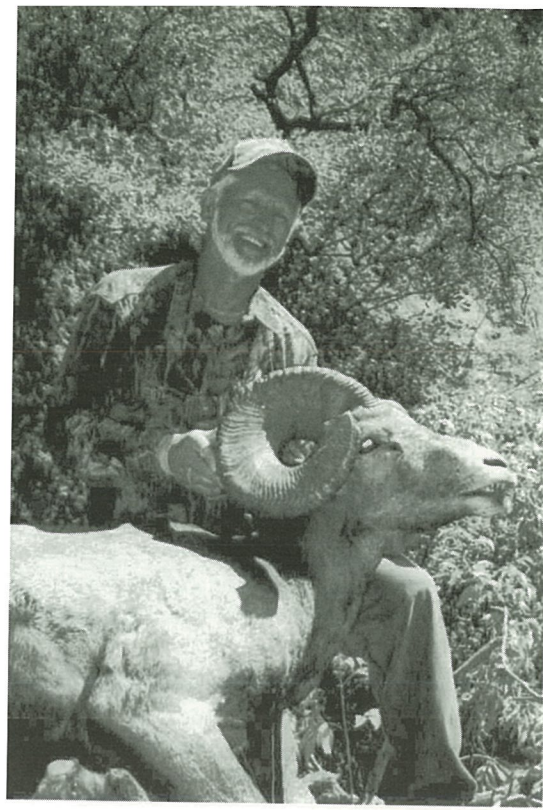
Editor,

My sheep hunting started while on a mule deer hunt in Chugwater, Wyoming in 1980. My friend Mark Virant of Wheatland, Wyoming and I decided to start looking at Dall sheep hunts since we weren't having any luck drawing a Wyoming bighorn permit.

The next year, I was in Alaska on an unsuccessful hunt. Although I didn't get a ram, I did get a good case of sheep fever. I returned to Alaska the next year for a successful Dall hunt. I was on my way! A Stone ram in B.C. in 1994, a Colorado Rocky Mountain bighorn in 1998, a great Wyoming Rocky Mountain bighorn in 2001 with Mike Wakkuri. Then at the Grand Slam/Ovis convention 3/4 slam drawing in Biloxi, Mississippi in February 2005, I was the lucky winner. The hunt was provided by Alcampo Hunting and Mr. Javier Artee. So, on March 6, 2005, I harvested a great old desert ram in Baja California Sur to complete my unexpected Grand Slam. I am now Grand Slammer #1217.

My desert sheep is in Laramie, Wyoming being mounted. I may hunt California bighorns but I think my sheep hunting career that started in Wyoming may end there when my ram is complete. However, I'll continue to hunt with my friend, Mark when I can draw a Wyoming tag. Keep up the good work for wild sheep and thanks for your past efforts.

Bernard Harvey, Life Member #112 - Abingdon, VA



Hunting in the Northwest Territories *continued from page 9*

...serving as a cover model again--see the late Duncan Gilchrist's On Caribou Hunting) and he would be able to continue his taxidermy business at least long enough for me to collect on my caribou mounts. On the third day I took my second caribou, a larger bull which was still in velvet. The enclosed photos of one of Kent's bulls and Karyn and me with one of mine speak for themselves about the size of the headgear these double-shovel bulls in that area carry.

We spent the remainder of our week watching herds of caribou migrate through, grizzlies devour and bury gut-piles, bald eagles and ravens working over what the grizzly left, Karyn catching her first grayling and lake trout, and engaging in Northwest Territory (NWT) aerobics. For those that are not familiar with the sport, NWT aerobics begins quite innocently by observing one of a group of bulls carrying a huge shovel (and other parts that were quite large as well) slowly grazing and milling around across a small lake. After a few minutes Dan decides he wants to punch his tag on "Mega Shovel" (of course after checking with us to make sure we did not have anything else in mind to do that afternoon). The next phase of NWT aerobics involved sitting on the hillside taking bets as to which side of the lake the bulls will finally end up going around (with side bets if they decide to swim across instead of going around). The warm up phase of NWT aerobics began when the bulls appeared to be headed to the left to circumvent the lake and we decide to start moving around our side of the lake in the same direction, with the idea that we would intercept them coming around the shore. After several hundred yards of moderately brisk warming up, the aerobic stage began when the caribou swapped ends and start running in the other direction, which put them on a heading toward a shallow crossing of a stream approximately two miles away. Noting the angle of CD (caribou departure), Dan looked back around the lake and stared for a couple of seconds at the ridge the caribou have decided to trot across and declared "I think we can catch them---- IF WE HURRY." Immediately we break into a flat-out sprint back around the lake that slows to a fast run only when we hit tussocks or steep side slopes. The aerobic stage continued for approximately 3/4 mile and ended with Dan scrambling up a moraine while gulping a few deep breaths of air to get his heart rate down somewhat, dropping into prone then back up into sitting so he could see the bull as he passed in front of us, and shooting Mega Shovel, who spun around in place a couple of times before dropping to the tundra. With a broad grin, Dan declared that we had just successfully participated in "Northwest Territories aerobics". Congratulations all around, photographs (see the one with the huge shovel) and another skinning, butchering, boning, and packing job added another great bull to the Jolly Lake Camp tally.

Change-out day came way too soon. In sharp contrast to some of our other hunts, particularly those self-guided excursions where we look forward to sleeping in a bed instead of on the ground, a long, long hot shower and something other than quickly prepared camp groceries to eat, it was difficult to consider leaving the lap of luxury in the Arctic tundra provided by the comfortable heated cabins, daily hot showers, fantastic food, and great company of the Jolly Lake staff and other hunters. We would like to thank the Jolly Lake crew for a great time. Thanks also to John and Anita Andre of Courageous Lake Caribou Camps and Lynn Stewart Taxidermy for their generous donation of the hunt and taxidermy to Wyoming FNAWS. We appreciate everyone whose support made it possible.

Karyn Coppinger and Craig Kling - Laramie, Wyoming

Wyoming Chapter Foundation for North American Wild Sheep

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4th Prize: Remington Rifle Model 700 XCR 300 WSM

5th Prize: Marlin Rifle 450 Guide Gun

6th Prize: Leupold 10X42 Wind River Binoculars

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

8th Prize: Brunton 10X42 Eterna Binoculars

9th Prize: Canon SD400 Digital Camera

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

The drawing will be held June 10, 2006 at the Wyoming Chapter FNAWS annual banquet in Sheridan, Wyoming. For more information and for the number of remaining tickets, visit our web site at wyomingfnaws.org.

For tickets, mail your check to: Bob Sundeen, P.O. Box 111, Buffalo, WY 82834.

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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. Ballots for the 2006-07 Board of Directors will be mailed to WY FNAWS members in good standing 45 days prior to the annual membership meeting, which will take place on June 10th. Election results will be announced at the membership meeting on June 10th.

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 10, 2006 to the Nominating Committee, C/O Wyoming FNAWS, P.O. Box 845, Dubois, WY 82513.

H U N T R E P O R T S

Hunting in the Northwest Territories

After the dust settled on the final live auction item of the Wyoming FNAWS Chapter Annual Banquet, Karyn was the last one to bid on a central barren ground caribou hunt graciously donated by John and Anita André of Courageous Lake Caribou Camps. To top it off, the package included taxidermy donated by Lynn Stewart Taxidermy (Lynn is secretary of the Wyoming FNAWS) who happened to be sharing the table with us at the banquet. I suspect Lynn jabbed Karyn in the ribs at just the right time to cause a reaction that the auctioneer took to be a bid, but, as secretary, Lynn is used to doing a lot of behind the scenes work and claims it was just part of his job to keep the bidding going.

Anita arranged for us to hunt out of Jolly Lake Camp, one of three caribou hunting camps they have from which to hunt the Bathurst Herd in the NWT. Beverlee Henderson, John and Anita's SOA (Super Organizer Assistant) took care of all the subsequent arrangements for schedules, licenses, hotel, etc. In Yellowknife we were greeted by Jane Weishaupt, E.E. (Expediter Extraordinaire), who made sure that we were matched up with our licenses and, the other hunters, our guns, gear, and huge load of food were on the right float plane to get to Jolly Lake.

We landed at Jolly Lake in a snow squall, which was quite exciting, because we could tell the plane was descending but the lake did not appear through the clouds until just before the floats started to skim the water. Upon departing the plane we were greeted by Camp Manager Ken Weber, taxidermist Allen Busetto, chef Joan Ross, sous chef Margo Evans, and four energetic fellows I immediately recognized as guides by the way they were sizing us up as we departed the plane (to see what motley lot of crippled old hunters they would have to march around the tundra for the week). Joan and Margo immediately started to feed us a tasty smorgasbord of pastries they had whipped up, a harbinger of the great food they prepared for us over the week. I will just say the food was beyond fantastic, as was evident by the weight I gained despite marching around the tundra in search of big bull caribou.

The guides turned out to be really great guys purportedly named Dan Matheson, Norm Goriak, Roger Eppert, and Dennis Blais. Dan was introduced as our guide (last in the roll call; Ken muttered something about him pulling the short straw) and we imprinted on him like a newly hatched gosling to mother goose so we could recognize him and try to get in the right boat to go hunting the next day. I believe the guides switched names a couple of times that first afternoon, including throwing in a couple of new names, just to keep us guessing but by supper time they pretty much settled down at their spots at the table and kept the same names and table spots for the rest of the week. Karyn and I were teamed up with Kent Stough, Ardent Caribou Hunter, from New Jersey who had experienced a little excitement over his gun and gear courtesy of the airlines (E.E. Jane made some last minute calls and Kent's gear arrived at the Air Tindi dock 27 seconds before our float plane took off).

We hit the peak of the brilliant red and orange fall tundra colors and probably the peak of the caribou migration. On the first day Kent shot a large bull just out of velvet, which took a nose dive and died down in the puckerbrush. For those unfamiliar with the term, puckerbrush is that thick brush in some of the swales that grows about shoulder high compared to all the other tundra vegetation that is less than knee high. It gets its name from the pucker factor associated with the realization that a grizzly would have to stand up very close to you before either he or you knew you were sharing the same piece of real estate. Karyn kept bear watch--we had seen a large grizzly down-wind a ways from that spot earlier in the day and were not sure if he had left the country yet (or not!). We took photos, skinned, boned meat, and packed out quite efficiently without any help from the bear except the knowledge in the back of our brains that he or his brethren could show up anywhere at anytime in the puckerbrush.

Several other hunters in Jolly Lake Camp were also successful on large bulls that first day. However, when the reports came in from the other camps that night and we learned that the hunters at Courageous Lake Camp had taken 17 bulls that first day, I became concerned. I knew Lynn was taxidermist at Courageous Lake Camp and worried that they might overwork him to death before he had a chance to do my mounts.

The second day Kent and I doubled up on bulls from a very large herd that was stacked up on the edge of Undine Lake, which we had walked to from camp because the wind had made Jolly Lake a little too rough to venture across via boat. Kent's bull was still in velvet and mine had just rubbed off. During the hunt reports among camps that night I was quite relieved to hear that Lynn had successfully pulled off an almost all-night caping marathon with no obvious ill effects (at least any ones that would prevent him from



continued on page 10