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The **RAMPAGE**

Wyoming Chapter FNAWS

WINTER 2007



Photo credit David Luzmoor

2007-08 Calendar of Events

December 1, 2007

Wyoming FNAWS Winter Meeting, Holiday Inn of the Waters
Thermopolis at 11 a.m.

February 6-9, 2008

Western Conservation and Hunting Expo, Salt Palace Convention Center
Salt Lake City

May 1, 2008

Grant-in-Aid Requests due for consideration at
Wyoming FNAWS 2008 Summer Meeting

June 7, 2008

Wyoming FNAWS 25th Annual Fundraiser
Lander, Wyoming

June 19 & 20, 2008

WGFD/WY FNAWS Bighorn Sheep Summit

November 1, 2008

Grant-in-Aid Requests due for consideration at
Wyoming FNAWS 2008 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 or by e-mailing a request to info@wyomingfnaws.org. E-mail submissions are preferred. The mailing address is Wyoming FNAWS, P.O. Box 845, Dubois, WY 82513.

WYOMING CHAPTER FNAWS

The RAMPAGE Magazine

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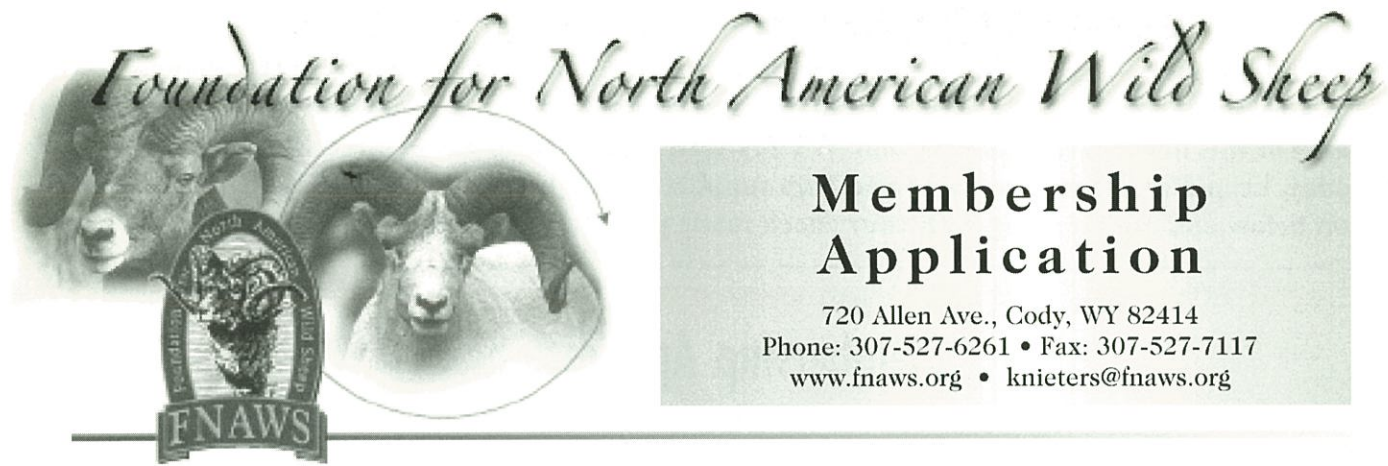
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# 2	Jeff Reynolds	#78	Wayne Knapp	#154	Eric Rhodenbaugh	#230	Gary Butler
# 3	Dave Steger	#79	Debi Van Buren	#155	Catherine E. Keene	#231	Cal O'Neal
# 4	Don Schmalz	#80	Mike Hildner (H)	#156	Mike Wakkuri	#232	M. Shawn Nelson
# 5	Harry Whyel	#81	Patrick Zummo	#157	Brandon R. Edgeington	#233	Allen Mooney
# 6	Freddie Goetz	#82	Mike Turek	#158	Timothy J. Raver	#234	Roger Coguill
# 7	Gene Hardy	#83	Douglas D. Cline	#159	Greg Murtland	#235	Don South
# 8	Hale Kreycik	#84	Dan Pocapalia	#160	R. Mark LeFavre	#236	Bill Williams
# 9	Dr. R. D. Keeler	#85	William T. Hill, Jr.	#161	Mark Bruscano	#237	Bill Suranyi
#10	Jim Collins	#86	Robert Van DeRostyne	#162	Chip Mooneyham	#238	Connie Meyer
#11	Mike Martin	#87	Tad Giovanini	#163	Betsy Grainger	#239	Justin Poppe
#12	Jack Hildner	#88	Robert W. Jacob	#164	James T. Grainger	#240	Kale Benton
#13	Kent Stevinson	#89	Pat Poppe	#165	Kristen E. Grainger	#241	Jason Teeples
#14	Fritz Meyer	#90	Richard Wobser	#166	Lauren L. Grainger	#242	Steve Kozisek
#15	Kathy Gay	#91	Rusty Gooch	#167	Bob Barlow	#243	Doug Stinnette
#16	Keith West	#92	Todd Alley	#168	Bill Rouse	#244	Vonnie Stinnette
#17	Lud Kroner	#93	John Wilson	#169	Robert L. Mills	#245	Cindy Collins
#18	Serge d'Elia	#94	Doug McWhirter	#170	Cindy Spriggs	#246	John Baughman
#19	Terry Marcum	#95	Glenn Anderson	#171	Tony Spriggs	#247	Joni Miller
#20	Kevin Hurley	#96	David G. Soderquist	#172	Mack Miller	#248	Darin Hubble
#21	Craig Pitters	#97	Michael J. Mahon	#173	Cody Brown	#249	Kenneth A. Cook
#22	Sam Pancotto	#98	Pepper Neustal	#174	Allen Kerkhove	#250	Robert C. Borgialli
#23	Vincent Allegra	#99	David Connor	#175	Jess Forton	#251	David M. Nahrang
#24	Dirk Edgeington	#100	Joe DeCora	#176	Mike Lapeyre	#252	Paul A. Chervenak
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#27	David S. Luzmoor	#103	Jeffrey Adam Milton	#179	Stephen Petigo	#255	"Trapper" Jack L. Morey, III
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#29	Sam Green	#105	Kyle Hurley	#181	Robert Flansburg	#257	Rachel M. Morey
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#40	Tyler D. Benton	#116	Keith Dana	#192	John L. O'Brien	#268	Jess Dingman
#41	Fred L. Novotny (D)	#117	John Coulter	#193	Rod Krebs	#269	Patrick Mooney
#42	Lee Livingston	#118	Joseph Konwinski	#194	Bryan Berg	#270	Wade Alexander
#43	Richard Lennington	#119	Bill Skelton	#195	John W. Harris	#271	Shelby Martin
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Thank You

President's Message

First off, I would like to welcome you to the winter 2007 edition of the Rampage as your new Wyoming FNAWS president. I'm looking forward to the challenge and to making your Chapter even better with the help of our new and existing board members.

It was a busy hunting season as well as a successful one, judging from the stories we've received from our members and fellow hunters. Congratulations to everyone.

Thanks to the support of our members, our 24th annual fundraiser was profitable once again, netting nearly \$65,500. Our board has worked hard to raise money and we funded several very worthwhile projects this year. The projects that were approved by the board and membership at our 2007 annual meeting are listed on Page 4.

Our Commissioner's License raffle is another fundraising effort that has seen great success. In 2007, we generated a great return, once again due to the efforts of our board and the support of our members. The raffle for 2008 is underway; contact board secretary Lynn Stewart or any Wyoming FNAWS board member to purchase a ticket.

The Wyoming Chapter will be undergoing some changes in the next year. We will be diversifying the work load and spreading the responsibilities for better balance and efficiency. The following committees have been formed and are being chaired by the following board members: Fundraiser Committee: Steve Kozisek; Projects Committee: Jim Collins; and Public Relations Committee: Curt Shatzer.

The board and membership also voted to officially hire an administrative assistant. Sheri Howe, who has informally served in this capacity for several years, has agreed to give it a try.

Our thanks to everyone who signed up for life memberships before the price increase took effect in July 2007. We now have over 300 life members!

We're looking forward to another productive year. Our winter meeting will be held Saturday, December 1 at the Holiday Inn in Thermopolis. We hope to see you there.

Have a safe winter,
 Bob Sundeen
 President

In Memoriam

All of us at Wyoming FNAWS are saddened by the loss of one of our life members.

Cort Feeley, life member #196, passed away this fall.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends.



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Wanted: Your E-mail Address!

Wyoming FNAWS is looking for e-mail addresses from our membership so that we can convey important information and communications in the timeliest fashion possible. If you have not submitted an e-mail address or need to update the one we have on file, please send it to info@wyomingfnaws.org.

Wyoming FNAWS will not share your e-mail address with any third parties, nor will you receive solicitations or "spam" from our organization.

Renew Your Membership Now!

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@wyomingfnaws.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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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.

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HUNT REPORT

One Outstanding Wyoming Ram

Sue Smith of Cody, Wyoming, took this beauty of a ram with the help of her husband and outfitter, Bill. The ram was taken in Hunt Area 2 on the North Fork of the Shoshone and was the subject of many photographs for the past two winters.

The ram green-scored over 183 and measured 42 $\frac{3}{8}$ " on the longer side (he broomed off one side the previous winter).

Wyoming Game and Fish wildlife biologist Kevin Hurley, who plugged the ram, noted that it may be the best ram taken in Hunt Areas 1-5 over the past 10 years or more.

Congratulations, Sue!



Hunters Enjoying Successful Sheep Hunts in '07

Kevin Hurley, WGFD Cody Region Wildlife Management Coordinator and Wyoming FNAWS liaison reports that fall 2007 ram harvest in Hunt Areas 1-5 appears to be quite good again.

In 2006, a total of 155 rams were taken in those 5 areas, approximately 85% of the statewide harvest total. By comparison, with seasons in Hunt Areas 1, 2, and 3 still underway at the time of Kevin's report (10/26/07), at least 135 rams have been taken thus far in 2007. This figure doesn't account for rams registered at all WGFD Regional Offices or the Cheyenne HQ; those registrations will come in to the Cody office once the seasons have been completed and accounting for the 15-day period successful hunters have to bring in their rams to be plugged/registered. Kevin reports that a number of heavy, broomed off, 170+ rams have been taken in 2007, with the best ram (8+ years old, 183+ B&C) being taken by Sue Smith of Cody in Hunt Area 2. A final tally of 2007 ram harvest will be put together once all the harvest records are turned in.

"Hunting & Horse Trails from Mongolia to the Yukon"

Wyoming FNAWS member Bruce Gilbert has written and published a book that covers hunting adventures from Wyoming to Kazakhstan and just about everywhere in between. Its 316 pages include 100 photos that highlight the recounting of his hunting adventures.

This book is a great gift idea for family, friends, fundraisers...and anyone who is interested in hunting in the States and abroad. The cost is \$14.95 for softcover or \$25.95 for hardcover, plus applicable tax and \$2.05 shipping and handling. For orders of 10 or more of the hardcover edition, a discounted price of \$5 per book will be given.

For more information or to order, contact Bruce at (262) 644-5125. Orders can also be faxed to (262) 644-5151.

The Biologist's Corner

Kevin Hurley, Wildlife Biologist
Wyoming Game & Fish Department
Cody, Wyoming



Some folks may have the wrong idea of what the "life and times" of a wild sheep biologist are all about. It may sound glamorous, but reality is a "far piece" from there!

Images of doing field work, collecting data on wild sheep every day, putting together transplants, ordering radiocollars, flying helicopter surveys, darting or netgunning sheep, and all the other "cool" things that a sheep biologist must be doing, are, unfortunately, sadly mistaken.

The reality is that only a very rare handful of state/provincial/territorial wildlife biologists get to spend 100% of their time doing wild sheep work. In most cases, the percentage of time allowed for many agency wildlife biologists to do "sheep work" hovers around 15-25% of their actual work time. Many of the wild sheep efforts that these biologists accomplish come on their own time, and on their family's time.

The vast majority of time spent actually dealing with critters runs the gamut from waterfowl to wolves, grouse to deer, and cottontail rabbits to grizzly bears. Everything but sheep!

An essential, but not very sexy part of the job is sitting in meetings, ranging from budget sessions to land use planning, from work scheduling to inter- and intra-agency coordination, from in-service training to setting hunting seasons, and from working groups to recruiting, hiring, and mentoring new employees.

Speaking of land use planning, after more than 30 years in this business, I've had more than my share. But, I've learned that even though land use management plans are worked on far removed from the field, upfront "office" time spent proactively working for wild sheep, other wildlife, and for hunters can often pay great dividends out the "end of the pipe," and out in the field.



Photo courtesy of Gretchen Hurley

Bureaucratic agency management of wild sheep and their habitats may be the last thing sheep hunters and wildlife enthusiasts want to engage in, but I strongly recommend that wild sheep advocates, individually or through your FNAWS chapters and/or affiliates, roll up your sleeves, dive in, and clearly make your feelings known. Work side-by-side with the biologists and wildlife managers who are working so hard for your interests, in addition to theirs.

I've always believed the saying that "the world is run by those who show up". You've got a dedicated cadre of wild sheep biologists working for you, most on a very part-time basis. Thanks to those of you who do your part for wild sheep and sheep hunting, and then do much more.

For those that haven't yet, maybe it's time you "dove in" to help ensure that wild sheep, healthy habitats, and hunting opportunities are out there, for your grandkids and beyond.

24th Annual Convention

Wyoming FNAWS held its 24th Annual Fundraiser on June 2 in Cody. A life member breakfast kicked off the festivities Saturday morning, followed by the General Membership Meeting.

After lunch, the afternoon agenda consisted of seminars and presentations, capped off with a wine and cheese tasting and games. That evening, everyone enjoyed a dinner of prime rib before the live auction took place.

The continuing success of our fundraisers is due to the support and generosity of our members and donors. Our thanks to everyone who stands behind our organization!

Our thanks also go to Scott Shreve for lending his photography talents.



Steve Kilpatrick drew raffle tickets while Rick Pallister announced the winners.



Life member Tammy Scott and her sidekick participated in a demonstration during the "Let's Count Sheep" seminar.



WY FNAWS board secretary Lynn Stewart pitched the sale of a Wyoming Commissioner's License raffle ticket.

HUNT REPORT

A Son's Gift



The story really begins in 1950 when my father, Jerry Shatzer, harvested his first elk. The deep desire for elk hunting would never leave. From 1950 to present, there were few years missed chasing elk. College and military service were about the only justifiable reasons. Many cows and young bulls were harvested. Not too many years ago, an elk wasn't passed up because it was not big enough. Elk meat was what fed us, along with a deer or antelope. There was a year or two of bad luck that kept him from getting a mature bull. I can remember when I was 5 or 6 years old, asking him what he wanted most. It was always a good 6-point bull.

That brings us to the winter of 2006. My wife Shanda and I were fortunate enough to be in a position to book an elk hunt for Jerry with Cole Benton of Grizzly Outfitters. I can't remember my father being speechless ever before, but he was when we gave him the hunt.

I am sure it was a long 9-month wait. September finally rolled around and the time came to go look for a bull of a lifetime. The first day of hunting didn't produce more than one lone yearling cow.

When 5am rolled around I think Jerry had been pacing for three hours already. A quick breakfast and coffee and we were on our way. Right at daylight, we found two cow and two calves...but still no big bulls. We searched on. It was around 11a.m. when we were working our way down a hog back ridge, stopping and glassing frequently. I noticed a lone bull bedded down 600 yards away. We quickly set up a spotting scope. The first look determined that he definitely was a mature 6 x 6. The right antler appeared to be weaker than the left. After a quick decision was made to get a closer look, we started working around to get the wind in our favor. A perfectly planned stalk put us 104 yards above the bedded bull.

We crawled up to look over the ledge. One glance through my binoculars proved we didn't see the bull nearly as good as we thought. He had mass that carried all the way to the top, beautiful ivory tips and long tine length. It didn't take but a few seconds for Jerry to decide that he wanted the shot. The problem now was the bull's body was covered by some brush. Making the decision to get the bull up or waiting for him to do it on his own was a tough one. Due to the lack of patience and the possibility of swirling wind, we elected to cow call. Cole cow-called twice, the bull stood and Dad took careful aim with his M70 pre 64 .338. The shot rang out and the bull collapsed. Once we walked down and looked at him, we saw there was no ground shrinkage on the body or antlers. His estimated live weight by Big Horn Meats was 1,200 pounds. They could not remember a bigger bodied bull being brought in.

After 57 years of waiting, my dad had the bull he always wanted. The last comment my dad made that day was that he was going back to shooting dry cows. After all he has done for me and what he will do for our boys when it comes to hunting, it was the least we could do.

Curt Shatzer
WY FNAWS Vice President
Life Member #220
Gillette, Wyo.

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. If you e-mail a photo, 300 dpi in a jpeg format is preferred.

HUNT REPORT

Beauty and the Beast, cont'd from page 11

The next day, Kelly flew in to get the cape and horns and bring them back to camp. He also brought us a few goodies. We cooked sheep ribs that afternoon; boy, what a treat that was. Jeremy had some seasoning that he had made up specially for them. Then it started to rain again. It rained us into the tent early that evening. Too bad, as we had planned to hunt for a caribou that afternoon.

The next morning it was still raining. It rained until around noon, then we decided to hunt our way farther around the base of the mountain we were camped at. We spotted several bulls about three miles down below us but none looked like they were any shooters. So we continued glassing on around the mountain. Jeremy glassed up two more bulls feeding across the river one of which was a big bull. We looked him over and decided to go after him as his rack was high and wide with a lot of points on each side. After hiking for only about another half mile, we jumped two more caribou bulls; one was pretty good – around 350 to 360 inches. But the big bull we had just seen was much better. So we carefully slipped across from the two good bulls who were feeding their way towards us on the other side of the river. I got set up for the shot and ranged to where the bull was headed on a small hill when he stepped up and gave me a shot, I fired.

Now the river was up even higher than a couple of days before. So we found a good crossing and made our way over to the bull. He was great! Lots of points and in full velvet. He had a deep rich chocolate coat with a frosty mane. He was a beast!!! And a beautiful trophy. Once again we had time for a few pictures and then we deboned the meat and capped the bull. Loaded our packs for the trip out. It was just getting dark when we finished crossing the river again, so we broke out



the flashlights again and continued on toward camp. It was around seven or eight miles back to camp that night. Crossing through the tundra was tough at best. It took us until just at dawn the next day to get back to camp. After getting back to camp and packing the meat over to the airstrip, we made our selves a breakfast and tried to get a little rest which was only for a couple of hours at best. Then we finished capping the bull and made the call to base camp that we had a caribou down and needed to have it flown out.

Kelly said that it would not be until later that afternoon sometime that lie would be able to come in to get the meat. And that he wanted to have my guide Jeremy move to another camp to help another guide Travis Wright and his hunter John Fields, get a caribou. John had already taken a beautiful ram with Travis and they were looking for a good bull now for John. They asked me if I wanted to go back to base camp or go hunt caribou. Heck, I wanted to keep hunting as I still had several days left in my hunt and would rather help one of the other hunters that had traveled with me to find a good bull for him. But this became another adventure for me to tell you another time.

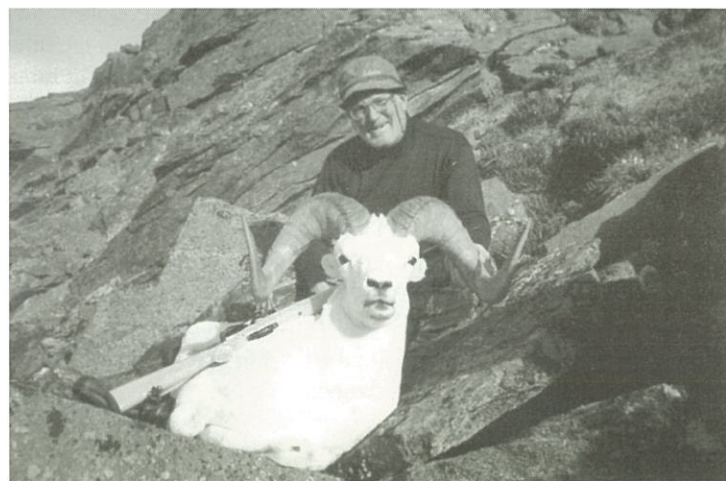
When returning to base camp I found my friend, Sid Groll, had gotten in shortly before us with a tremendous ram that he had taken earlier. That afternoon we all got a chance to shower up and enjoy another fantastic home cooked meal by Mary, the base camp cook. Her pies and pastries she sends out to the hunters are a real treat. We then heard that Trent Wall had scored on a terrific ram. Don Peay had come along with Trent to get his hunt on film. They would be joining us the next day at base camp. Then we all relaxed around camp a while and turned in for some much needed rest.

We came with hope and dreams and are returning with the treasures of a lifetime. One step at a time, Sid. One step at a time. Thanks to my wife Carla, and my children Haley and Hunter – without your love and support, I could not chase my dreams!!! A special thanks to: Don Peay for all your help, and Kelly Hougan and The Arctic Red River Crew. One more ram to go now – a Stone!

R. Mark LeFaivre
Life Member #160
Rock Springs, Wyo.

A Rare Moment

It was an August 9-19 hunt near Aishihik (pronounced aziak) Lake in the southwest Yukon. This Dall ram was taken from a band of 13 rams that we stalked four straight days in a row. This old fellow had that uncanny sense of avoiding danger from well concealed and unwinded hunters. In the end a very dangerous climb resulted in a rare moment for a sheep hunter: five mature rams standing broadside at 80 yards!



David Luzmoor
Life Member #27
Meeker, Colo.

and Fundraiser Recap



Wyoming Game & Fish biologist Steve Kilpatrick was the recipient of the 2007 Ron Ball Award. Kilpatrick was presented the award by WY FNAWS President Cole Benton (left) and Past President Jim Collins (right).



Sara Litzel modeled a wolf hide while auctioneer Larry Gay urged the bids to go higher.



Kevin Hurley received a helping hand from a young guest during a raffle drawing at the Life Member Breakfast.



Life members enjoyed a delicious breakfast and good conversation.



The Cody Auditorium began to fill up for the evening's activities.

Bugs Released to Wreak Havoc on Canada Thistle

By
Ryan Amundson, Wyoming Game and Fish Department

In July of 2002, the lightning-caused Reese Fire burned over 18,000 acres west of Wheatland, Wyoming. Many of the peaks inhabited by bighorn sheep were burned, including Reese Mountain, Collins Peak, Split Rock, and Pine Mountain.

The fire was considered “long overdue” by area Wyoming Game and Fish Department personnel, as conifers had encroached and dominated many of the mountain’s aspen stands and rocky outcroppings preferred by bighorns.

Five years later, the fire has been largely considered to have been a great benefit to area wildlife. However, the fire did create an environment conducive for the invasion of Canada thistle in places. This is common, especially following summer wildfires of high intensity and severity. Post-fire, thistle invaded areas on the mountains where snows deposit (leeward sides of ridges), in aspen stands, wet springs and seeps, and small mountain meadows.

Elk browsing on regenerating aspens has also been a concern in the 5 years post-fire, but appears the aspens might be finally getting ahead of them a little bit. Competition with Canada thistle for available moisture and nutrients has also set back aspen stands.

To reduce this competition with thistles, bugs were called upon to help out. A stem-boring weevil, *Ceutorynchus litura*, has been proven to be effective in reducing Canada thistle infestations. The bug has a simple job....bore into the stem of an actively growing plant, stressing and weakening the plant, and ultimately cause the stem of the plant to lodge and fall over prior to the development of a viable seedhead. When successful, a thistle stand can be effectively controlled. The insects have been tested in numerous sites throughout North America, to make sure that they will not attack non-targeted plants, and they’ve passed the test with flying colors. The use of insects, or bio-control methods, has been slowly gaining in popularity and use throughout the United States.

In September of 2007, Martin Hicks (WGFD Wildlife Biologist) and Ryan Amundson (WGFD Habitat Extension Biologist) hiked up Split Rock with 3,000 bugs in their backpacks, and released them in thistle patches on the mountain. Thirty releases (100 insects per release) were completed.

“We hope the bugs go to work right away, and bore into host plants and get ready for the on-set of winter,” stated Hicks. “Use of herbicides to control Canada thistle in this area is unrealistic due to the remoteness of the sites, and sensitivity of aspen re-sprouts to most herbicides. The use of bio-control was our most viable option here.”

Local WGFD personnel will monitor the effectiveness of the insects over the next several years. Hopefully thistle stands will diminish over time, and aspens will be able to out-compete the stressed thistle plants. Aspens and their associated plant communities are very diverse and play a crucial role in meeting the habitat requirements of many wildlife species, including mule deer, elk, bighorn sheep, blue grouse, neo-tropical migrant birds, and many other species of Wyoming’s wildlife.

The Wyoming Governor’s Big Game License Coalition (WBGGLC) footed the bill for the project, at a total of \$3,000. Representatives from Wyoming FNAWS and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department play a key role in setting priorities for the use of these funds, reviewing annual project applications, and monitoring the effectiveness of projects. To learn more about the WBGGLC, go to the Wyoming Game and Fish Department’s web site at gf.state.wy.us and look under “What’s New”....Governor’s Big Game Licenses.

Editor’s Note: The 42 bighorn sheep trapped in northwestern Montana and transplanted to Hay Canyon in January 2007 utilize the Split Rock area extensively. As of 09/19/07, all 30 of the radio-collared bighorn sheep released are still alive and doing well in their new home.



Ceutorynchus litura - the bugs with an important job to do.



The invasive nature of Canada thistle is apparent in this aspen stand.

H U N T R E P O R T

Beauty and the Beast – Dall Sheep and Caribou 2006

There I was, sitting in the airport nervously waiting for my flight. I am traveling with several other sheep hunters. We are all hoping for a chance at our dream ram! All of us are traveling to the Northwest Territories of Canada. Kelly Hougan and his crew at Arctic Red River Outfitters is our destination. They are well known for the great sheep that come from there each year. Little did we know of the adventure that awaited us!

Don Peay had set up this hunt for all of us and will be going along as well. Don has become the sportsman’s voice. He has a true passion for what he does, benefiting the wildlife as well as the hunters. He and a few others started a sportsman’s group called S.F.W. The conservation success of Sportsman for Fish and Wild life has been amazing in a few short years.

Just getting to base camp was a trip in itself, as it takes three days travel from my home in Wyoming to get there. Along the way, I was able to meet and get to know the other hunters, each of us from a different walk of life. Yet we were all the same with our passion for hunting leading us into this journey to the unknown. One hunter who I became good friends with and ended up as traveling companions with was Sid Groll, a sportsman and gentleman. One evening, we were talking about the backpack hunt we were headed up on. The conversation got around to wondering if he and I would be able to keep up. My answer to Sid was that I figured that I would concentrate on one step at a time, just one step at a time. And that should work just fine.

I was flown into my spike camp by Bernie, Kelly Hougan’s other bush pilot. There I met my guide Jeremy Bergen. Jeremy is the kind of guide that you hope to meet. Ready to go and loves to hunt sheep, keeps a positive attitude – enough for both of us, and is willing to go the extra mile. After saying goodbye to Bernie, we crossed the creek and made our way over to the camp. Along the way, Jeremy asked me if I had a problem with getting my sheep the first day. I told him no, I would not if he was a real good one. “Why – have you found the mystical forty inch ram for us?” Soon as we got to the tent, he sat down to his spotting scope and looked for a bit then he turned to me and said, “Well, how do you like this one?” When I looked through the scope, I just about did not believe what I was seeing. This ram was everything that I had hoped for. Horns sweeping way up over his nose. After looking him over, we were guessing him around the forty-inch mark. **What a beauty!!!** I then told Jeremy that if we could get close enough for a shot that I would really like to get him. You would be crazy to pass on a chance at a ram like that first or last day of a hunt.

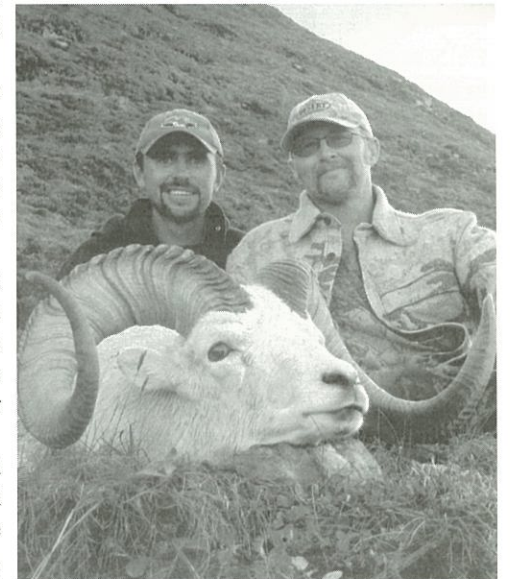
As it turned out, Jeremy was flown in the day before and had started to glass for sheep when he found these rams, seven rams in all. He kept an eye on them the rest of the day hoping they would not take a notion to move somewhere. Lucky for us, they stayed around. So we enjoyed the rest of the day watching the rams bed up, and then trying to figure a stalk for the next day. In the North West Territories, you can not hunt for twelve hours after you fly. So we waited for dawn the next day.

At the first light of day; after tossing and turning all night, I rolled out of my sleeping bag and got out of the tent to try and find the rams. I was treated to watching the rams feed, then posture, and the big ram – The Captain – as Jeremy called him, raring up and shaking his head at the others. Then graze up out of sight over the top of the ridge. After a few anxious minutes, they fed back over to where we could watch them. They finally bedded down for the day and the hunt was on.

We had decided to go up one of the chutes across from the rams as the wind was right. And we could stay out of sight. After getting into position across from where we had watched The Captain bed down, we found that the second best ram and a half curl had moved above there and were now bedded with the Captain nowhere to be seen. The waiting game was on. We were pinned down until they got up to feed. After a couple of hours it started to rain and continued to rain for about four and a half hours. Which, all the time, we would take turns creeping over to the spotting scope to see if the rams had moved. They did not! When it finally decided to quit raining and we crept over to the scope to find that the rams had gotten up, but we could not see them.

Not knowing if they were feeding towards us or moving away, It was now or never and starting to get late. The decision was made to move up and try to catch up with them. Getting to the top of the next ridge and looking over to find no sheep, then going to the next ridge still no sheep. Slipping up on the third ridge Jeremy was ahead of me a bit and as he peaked over he saw the Captain. After quickly ranging him at 286 yards I got ready to shoot. When the smoke had cleared, I had a dandy ram down!!! After a few pictures, we caped my ram and deboned him, then headed off the mountain just as it was getting dark.

Picking our way down through the chute, it was slow going that night. A tough pack down the mountain to find the creek swollen up which made the crossing a little tricky. Finally, making it back to camp at around 3 a.m. the next day, we heated up some Mountain House dinners. They sure tasted good, then we stumbled off to bed. That next morning was spent finishing capping the ram and relaxing around camp, the glassing sheep and caribou all afternoon.



H U N T R E P O R T

My Grand Slam

In the Spring of 2006, I purchased the Wyoming Governor's tag for Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep in Wyoming. I hunted in Wyoming's Area 5 the latter part of October with my friends and outfitter Larry Altimus and guide Bo Morgan. After eight days of hard work and unbelievable spotting and glassing, they put me on four fine rams. After about 4½ hours of climbing to 10,000 feet, we were on the rams, two of which were shooters. Let me explain, up to this point we had seen 100 to 125 sheep, 20% of which were rams. Many very nice, but for fog or distance I was not able to get a shot, except for the second day out when Larry and Bo spotted a band of sheep with three shooters, one of which was a dark, large old ram. The sheep had gotten our scent and were moving. In a second, the adrenaline was pumping and in my excitement I shot two inches above the shoulders of a great ram. I was not able to get a second shot, so there is a great ram for the next tag holder.



But now getting back to where I left off of the four rams...one of the rams had more mass and appeared older. Larry pointed him out to me. All that was visible were the horns and 80% of the head. The body was obscured by brush and branches. So the trick will be to determine where the body is of a ram that was lying. So Larry said take your time and wait until the wind dies down. I did that and finally took the shot. Larry and Bo said you got him. Just then the ram moved and fell 100 ft. off the cliff. We recovered the ram, no damage to the head or horns. What a beautiful dark 10-year-old ram he is. Larry congratulated me saying, "You did it, you got your Grand Slam!"

I want to thank Larry Altimus and Bo Morgan, the great Eastern Chapter of FNAWS for the chance to bid on the tag and the good it will do for North American Wild Sheep. Also, the great State for Wyoming, the Governor for making the tag available and all the sportsmen. I've got sheep hunting in my blood and after ten years almost to the day I have my Grand Slam at my age and thinking of the next sheep hunt.

Thank you all that helped make this possible.

Loren Kohnen
Life Member #281
Corcoran, Minn.

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www.wyomingfnaws.org**

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Hurley Chairs Wild Sheep Working Group

In January 2007, Kevin Hurley, WGFD Cody Region Wildlife Management Coordinator and Wyoming FNAWS liaison, was selected by the Directors of the 23 Fish & Game agencies in the western U.S. and Canada to chair a comprehensive, west-wide Wild Sheep Working Group (WSWG) for the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA). Long-time wild sheep biologist and current Director of the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources Jim Karpowitz volunteered to be the Director Sponsor for this new WAFWA working group. The first task undertaken by this 12-person WSWG was development of a set of management recommendations [27-page report, "Recommendations for Management of Domestic Sheep and Goats in Wild Sheep Habitat," available from Kevin, by e-mail, if interested] that could serve as the basis for the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management on federally-managed lands; this task was completed in less than 150 days, and presented by Kevin to the WAFWA Directors in July 2007 in Flagstaff, Arizona, where the report was unanimously endorsed.

Following endorsement by the WAFWA Directors, a subsequent letter, accompanied by this report, was sent to the heads of 6 federal land management agencies that deal with this topic, encouraging them to revise/update their policies and guidelines.

Kevin reports that the next step in this process was presentation of the WAFWA report/recommendations at a one-day RiskAssessment workshop in Tucson in late September 2007, to an audience of ~85 state and federal agency personnel, university professors and students, wildlife and livestock veterinarians, woolgrowers representatives and domestic sheep grazing permittees, wild sheep advocates, and other interested folks. Another workshop is being planned for early February 2008 in Salt Lake City, just ahead of the National FNAWS Convention.

Once the task of WSWG #1 was completed, Kevin reports that WSWG #2 is in its early stages of formation and progress. This second WSWG is tasked with a comprehensive assessment of wild sheep status and all facets of wild sheep management in the western U.S. and Canada, including desert sheep and thinhorn sheep. An initial group meeting is being tentatively planned for early December in Salt Lake City to discuss progress to date and firm up the approach this working group will take. A 2.5- to 3-year time frame is envisioned for this WSWG #2 to complete its work; Kevin will be presenting a progress report on both working groups #1 and #2 to the WAFWA Directors at their mid-winter meeting in San Diego, California.

Radio Collar Data Retrieved from Devil's Canyon Bighorns

WGFD Greybull wildlife biologist Tom Easterly led the effort in early October 2007 to retrieve GPS radio collars from study animals in the Devil's Canyon study area. Programmed at the factory to drop off on a certain date, not all drop-off mechanisms functioned properly, but Tom and his crew have been able to retrieve at least 27 of the 33 collars that were still out in late September 2007.

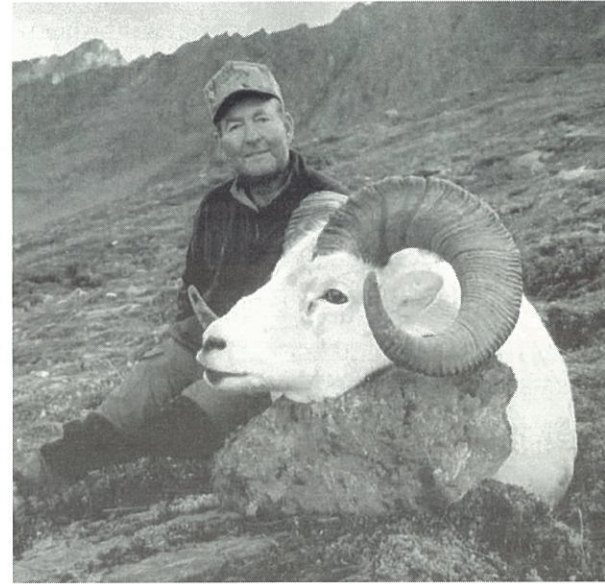
Efforts continue to gather some of the remaining collars, but conventional VHF signals have failed in some of the collars, complicating their retrieval. The next step is to download all the relocation data from each collar, then plot those data in a Geographic Information System (GIS) to generate maps showing habitat use and selection, and seasonal and daily movements.

Tom will be analyzing this telemetry data in the coming year, with a final report scheduled by the end of calendar year 2008.

H U N T R E P O R T

My Second Dall

On September 8th, I flew into Anchorage, Alaska, where I met up with Kelly, the wife of my outfitter Bill Stevenson. She drove us about 100 miles north to their home where we got our gear ready, shot rifles, and Bill immediately made two trips with one of his Super Cubs flying us part way up the mountain. Due to bad weather, he could only fly us a short distance and had to set down on an old strip. My guide Cash and I walked on into the night until coming to an old one room mountaineer shack. Bears had been there before us, so it took a little house cleaning before eating supper and spending the night.



The next morning we continued climbing then spent the rest of the day crossing a huge glacier. This glacier averages two mile wide and is 25 miles long. Reaching the other side in the evening, we set spike camp up and had a quick bite to eat. Cash then left me and walked back out on the glacier looking for a route into a basin behind camp. There was supposed to be some rams hidden there.

We were up at 3 a.m. the next morning and started climbing to a spot overlooking this basin. This climb took several hours in the dark. At 7 a.m., we reached the top just in time to see the rams go down and out into the middle of the basin with no cover between us and them. We spent the day waiting for the sheep to make the next move. Part of the time was spent watching a black bear and a goat on the far side of us.

In the late afternoon, the six rams started grazing toward us. With the wind in our favor, we made a rush to a chute and started down it. Within just a few minutes, we were at the bottom of the chute crawling out for a rest across a rock for a shot. The wind changed and the rams made a run for it. They paused once and I was able to put two shots into the largest ram with my Browning single shot 30-338. He went down. With some quick photos, caping, and deboning, we loaded everything and started back to our spike camp. We got there just at dark.

The following morning we reloaded everything including camp. Dropping onto the glacier, we strapped on our ice cheated clamp-ons and walked out across the glacier. Bill was able to land his Cub on the far side of the glacier and picked us up there for the flight back to his home. The following day we checked our ram in with the Game and Fish in Palmer. He was 11½ years old with an outstanding cape and I will have a life size mount done. I was then headed back to Wyoming with my second Dall ram the other was taken in 1995. I cannot say enough about the hospitality shown me along with Cash being an excellent guide. Bill Stevenson's flying ability is second to none.

Cole Benton
Wyoming FNAWS Past President
Life Member #30
Buffalo, Wyo.

H U N T R E P O R T

The Six-Man Ram

As many of you will remember, this story started in May of 2006 when Russ Green (Life member #45) drew an Area 5 bighorn sheep tag. After 38 years of applying, Russ was ready for this hunt. Nothing could go wrong, could it? No one would ever have dreamed that a large portion of the Greybull River would be burning from July through August in 2006. This fire was large enough that the Wyoming Game and Fish gave all Area 5 tag holders an opportunity to turn their tags in with a guarantee of receiving one in 2007. Russ was one of 18 other tag holders who did turn theirs back. Now a year to wait.

On August 28, 2007 Russ, along with his son Travis and good friend Bob Sundeen, took camp in and set it up. They immediately started riding and glassing for sheep. Early the morning of August 30, I met my son Tyler and his father-in-law Wayne Nelson in Buffalo. We drove to the Jack Creek trail head, saddled horses and headed up the Greybull trail. Bob had already taken most of our gear in, so we only took one pack horse. Four and a half hours



later, we were in camp. There is a lot of history with this hunt as Russ's dad started me sheep hunting many years ago. Now, I'm one sheep away from my grand slam!

Arriving in camp, we were greeted with stories of a ram; one of several Bob, Russ, and Travis had been watching on the mountain above camp. While eating supper, we discussed several options on how we might try to have an opportunity at this one impressive sheep. With plans made, we hit the bedrolls.

Awaking early, we saddled horses, made lunches, and ate breakfast. Taking horses as far as we could, Russ, Travis, Tyler and I started climbing. Bob and Wayne stayed low and went out the other side where hopefully they could keep an eye on this ram. He was not in a place we could get to. The ram needed to come out to us. As the day wore on, we saw around 25 other rams, but none as good as the one in the cliffs. Lots of exercise, but no luck today. Returning to camp in the dark, Bob and Wayne said the ram was still there. Okay, plan B.

The following morning, the four of us started out again with Bob and Wayne once again staying behind to watch what this sheep may have in mind as we could see him from camp again. There was an area in those cliffs that he certainly enjoyed more than we did. After two hours of riding, we tied up and started climbing. If we could get above him and if he would come out to us, we had a chance. We spent several hours of glassing and working our way to the end of the mountain. We immediately found the two smaller rams that were part of this group of four right where we wanted them. Bad news though; as the ram we wanted and his other running mate would not show themselves. There we lay for the next two hours. The sun was getting lower, but the ram we wanted still held out from showing himself. If something didn't happen very soon, we were going to spend the night up there as there is no way of getting off of this mountain in the dark without getting someone hurt. We waited, and now could see the horns of the two biggest rams, but they would not show themselves. It's going to be dark soon. Time to throw some rocks. After rock upon rock, they finally moved, but the wrong way.

I grabbed Russ and said, "Let's go." We made a run for a spot below us that I thought we might get a shot. Tyler and Travis stayed high to follow the sheep as they moved. As we got into position, there was no doubt everything we had worked for was about to go down the drain. We had one chance at about 300 yards and then they were going to be gone. I said, "Can you make that shot?" His response was, "Yes." One shot from the 300 H&H with double set triggers handed down from his dad. The bullet went home; the ram made three lunges down toward the cliffs and then started rolling. That was the last we saw of him until almost dark.

Following the rolling blood trail for almost an hour, I found the sheep where he had crashed into a crevice. A few quick photos with the four of us and I radioed Bob that it looked like we would be here for the night. We cleaned the sheep, and dug into the side of the mountain for what was going to be a long night. We made use of the space blankets we packed and kept a fire going until light finally started showing the morning of the 3rd. We quickly caped and quartered the ram, split up the load, and started crawling out of the hole we were in. The next four hours were the worst climb I've ever had to make sheep hunting. When we finally topped out, Wayne and Bob met us with food, water, and our horses. It was an enjoyable trip back to base camp. We all agreed on one thing: if it wasn't for all six of us working together, this ram probably would not be headed for Russ's wall.

Cole Benton
Wyoming FNAWS Past President
Life Member #30
Buffalo, Wyo.