

The **RAM**PAGE

Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation

Fall 2016



"AREA 5 DO IT YOURSELF" -PAGE 17

PHOTO BY DUSTIN H



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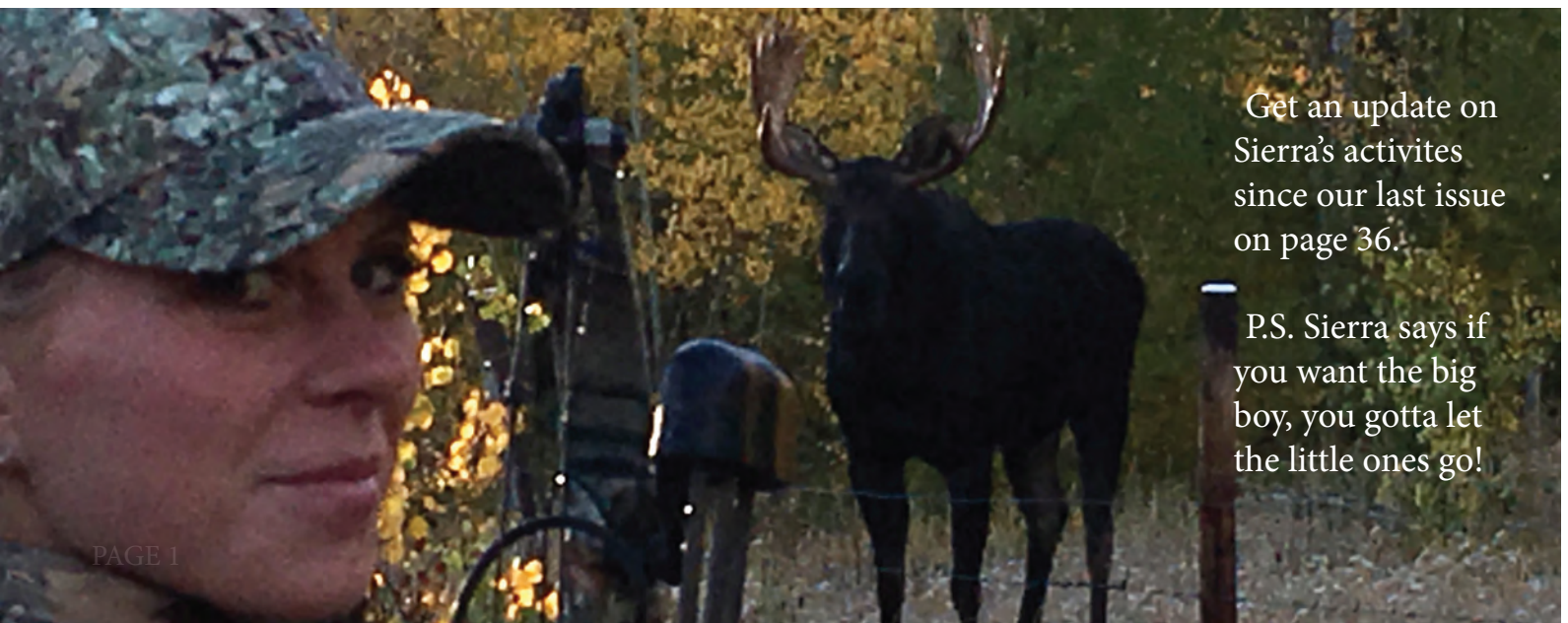
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Coming in the Spring 2017 Issue!

Sierra's Moose Hunt
Ryan's Montana Sheep Hunt
Dale's BC Moose
Hunting with Heros- Antelope,
Elk, & Sheep Hunts



Get an update on
Sierra's activities
since our last issue
on page 36.

P.S. Sierra says if
you want the big
boy, you gotta let
the little ones go!

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Jerry Galles-President
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Greg Pope
Mike Porter
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Bob Sundeen
Steve Kilpatrick-Executive
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Contact us at:

info@wyomingwildsheep.org or
by phone: (307)527-7008

Wyoming WSF Board & Membership Meetings

Wyoming WSF holds its winter board membership meeting on the first Saturday of December and summer convention/board/membership meeting the first Saturday in June. Details and locations are listed in the Calendar of Events and on line at: www.wyomingwildsheep.org.

Funding requests for consideration at the winter board meeting are due no later than Nov. 1. Funding requests for consideration at the summer board meeting are due no later than May 1.

The Grant-In-Aid request form is available on the Wyoming WSF website: www.wyomingwildsheep.org.

Contact address:

Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation
P.O. Box 666

Cody, WY 82414

E-mail: info@wyomingwildsheep.org

Photo courtesy of Mark Gocke

11 Greg Petersen's Sheep Hunting Report

Go to the top of the Winds with Greg while he hunts his ram 37 years after helping his father hunt their first ram in the same area.

16 Hunt Area 5 Do It Yourselfer

Bradley Foster goes on the hunt of a lifetime and tells us how to achieve your dream ram on a budget.

23 Grant in Aid Updates

WY-WSF Has supported \$181,620 in grants during FY 2015-2026. Check out this section to keep track of how our grant monies are being utilized.

50 Area 12 Archery Hunt

Gary Laya bags a 181+ ram with his bow in H.A. 12.

51 An Old Ugly

WY-WSF Board Member Dan Hinz gets back to Africa.

53 My Area 19 Ram

Life Member Luke Michelena and family hunt long, hard, and high to find his special ram.

54 Cave Dweller

Life Member Steve Brock finds his cave dwelling H.A. 3 ram with help from a great outfitter.

55 Last Hunt?

Greg Pope scheduled his Stone Sheep hunt thinking it was to be his final try at sheep hunting.

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Full-Page \$250
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Donations netting WY-WSF >\$500 entitle donor to a free 1/4-page ad in the next 2 issues of The Rampage.

Ads must be received in camera ready .jpg format by 09/25 & 3/5!!

2016-2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 3-4, 2016
Winter Meeting
Saratoga, WY

January 21-23, 2017
Wild Sheep Foundation Convention
Reno, NV

June 3-4, 2017
Wyoming Wild Sheep
Foundation Convention
Parkway Plaza, Casper, WY



Let it be known that

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is a **LIFETIME MEMBER**
of the
WYOMING
WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION

Wyoming WSF would like to thank, and recognize, Life Members who have signed up since the Spring 2016 Rampage was published. A complete listing of WY-WSF Life Members is available for viewing on the WY-WSF web page, under the "Life Members" tab:

<http://www.wyomingwildsheep.org/content/life-members>

If you would be interested in signing up/upgrading to Life Member status with WY-WSF, please visit our Store or Membership pages on the website. A \$500, one-time payment (or \$100 down, with quarterly \$100 payments), invests in Wyoming's bighorns, plus gets you or someone you know a high-quality wall plaque and name tag. We thank all of our past, current, and future Life Members!!

Blast from the Past (page 42) Answer-Jack Welch, longtime wild sheep biologist and enthusiast harvested this ram off Caldwell Creek in the 1970's. Jack drew his fifth sheep tag last year. He did not harvest, but the trip resulted in trophy memories. Left to right - Gary Butler (Life member 230, founder of the Conservation Fund), Jack Welch, Galen Boyer, Doug Crow.

472	Tim Sundles
473	Greg Pope
474	Bill Dooley
475	James Rinehart
476	Pat Pace
477	Tanner Pace
478	Erik Alberts
479	George Law
480	Chris Cohagan
481	Shelley Cohagan
482	Dale M Sims
483	Steven Brock
484	Brenda Michelena
485	Riley Otto
486	J. Scott Williams
487	Crystal Alberts
488	Buddy DuVall
489	Paul Dona
499	Kalvin Eisenach
500	Megan Hutchison

WY WSF PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY JERRY GALLES

Welcome to the fall edition of the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation Rampage magazine. Our talented volunteer staff and others have put together a very nice magazine for your visual and reading enjoyment.

Archery season is almost over, and so is the beautiful fall weather we have had over the last several weeks. Rifle season will begin in earnest and many of you will be out pursuing your animals. I am envious of those of you who have drawn those coveted Bighorn Sheep, Mountain Goat, Moose, Elk, Deer, and Antelope tags.

Good luck in your endeavors to fill your freezers and harvest your trophy rams, bulls and bucks. I was not so lucky in the special license draw this year, so I will be hunting general Mule Deer and general Elk. Maybe, just maybe, I will stumble upon an unsuspecting elk or deer. I would like some meat for the freezer.

I want to invite you to our winter meeting to be held December 2nd and 3rd in Saratoga, Wyoming. We will have a business meeting and

reception following on Friday. On Saturday, we will have a tour of sheep country with a sack lunch. That night we will have dinner with a few raffles and silent auction items. The weekend should be informative and enjoyable.

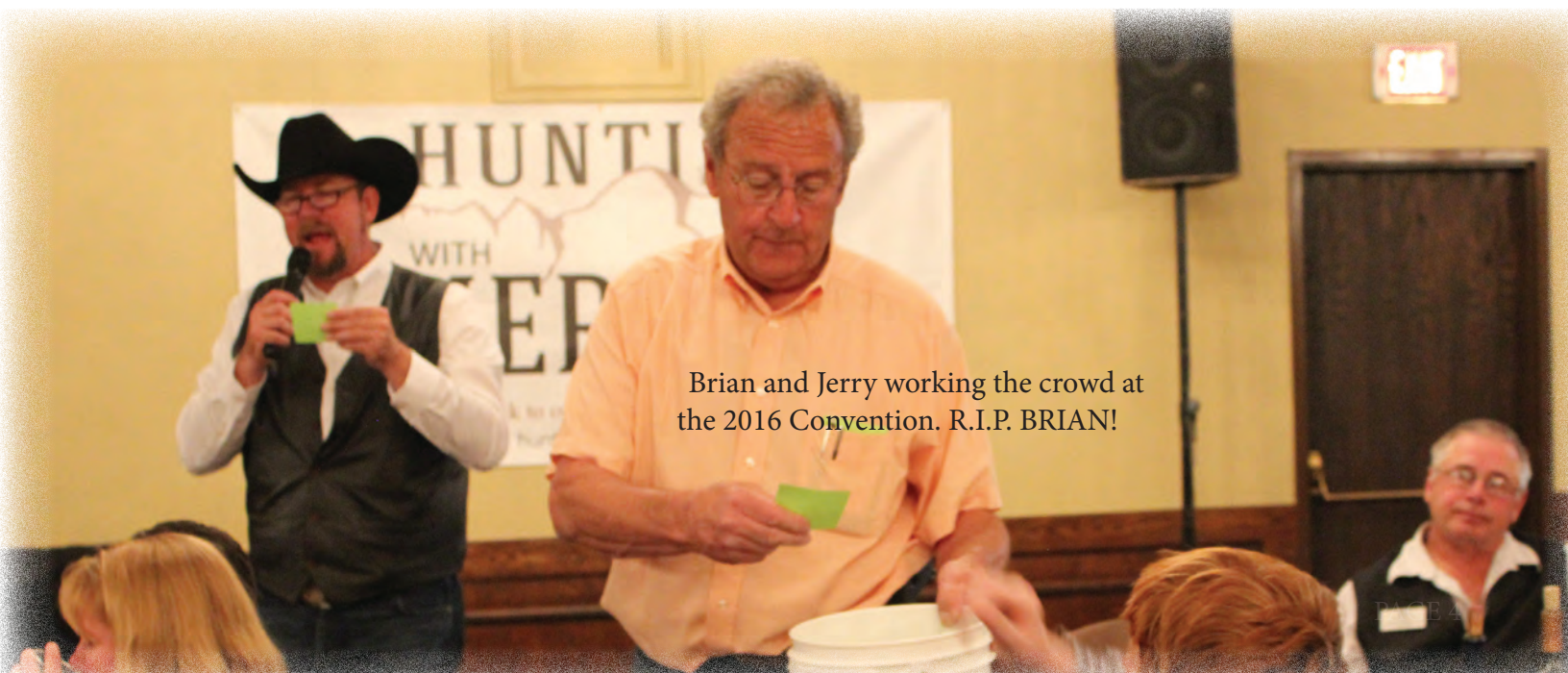
We lost a good friend to wildlife this past week. I would like to share a few of my memories of Brian Scott Gamroth: Many times he would introduce Director Scott Talbott, Governor Fruedenthal, Dan Gay, Steve Price, John Barasso or other special people in the room as, "Here is the man, the myth and the legend". I know that many of you who read this will remember that phrase and remember Brian and his voice. As a man he was every bit of that connotation. Most importantly he was "the Man". He had a memory that would rival Kevin Hurley's memory. Once he met you, he never forgot who you were, what you did as an occupation, your name or your family.

He always had a warm greeting, a big smile and a big hug for you. Boy, did he have long arms. He

had the most recognized voice in Wyoming. It was vibrant and full of energy. When he spoke, people would listen. He had that special wit in him that so few people can match. I was always impressed with his ability to work with auctioneers and people in the room to entice bids to raise money, for wildlife, children, arts, humanities, veterans, elderly, and the needy. He would always be willing to lend a hand when asked.

I considered Brian a friend, a special person, that has earned all of the recognition that has been bestowed upon him. I will miss Brian! From seeing him at functions many times a year to talking to him when I would run into him. I have shed tears of sadness and joy with his passing thinking of all the fun times we had at the events. I loved Brian and I will miss him,

**"HE LIVED....."
THE MAN, THE MYTH,
THE LEGEND".
BRIAN SCOTT GAMROTH!**



Brian and Jerry working the crowd at the 2016 Convention. R.I.P. BRIAN!

WY WSF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

BY STEVE KILPATRICK

The summer has passed quickly since the spring Rampage and the June fund raising event in Casper. I hope you all had time to revel in Wyoming's amazing outdoors over the summer and are now in the midst of or preparing for hunting season. Wyoming and its outdoor haunts, what an amazing place to live, raise families and visit!

You wild sheep enthusiasts are the best at recognizing Wyoming's outdoor and wildlife treasures. You have not only recognized it by immersing yourself in the backcountry, you have dug deep into your pocket to financially support wild sheep as well as Wyoming's other wildlife resources into the future. You have definitely spoken with action (financial support) vs just words. We thank you on behalf of Wyoming's silent wild sheep and other wildlife species!

Below is a partial recap of what YOU have done over the past few months:

Grant in Aid Projects - Your board of directors approved approximately \$118,000 in project funds at their December 2015 and June 2016 meetings the project included education, population monitoring, disease monitoring, habitat enhancements, transplants and more. A quick review of each project is provided in this Rampage publication. I also encourage you to review the projects in more detail on our web site - <https://www.wyomingwildsheep.org/grants.asp>

Annual Banquet and Fundraiser - As many of you know we had an outstanding event in Casper last June. Approximately 325 folks showed up to have a laugh, eat and provide financial support for keeping sheep on the mountain for our kids, grandkids and great-grandkids. You generated approximately \$120,000 to fund our Grant In Aid projects and secure the future of having kids and wild sheep on the mountain. THANK YOU!

Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation Conservation Fund - This fund, started only a year ago by the Butler Family Foundation, has grown from the initial \$ 25,000 grant to over \$117,000. Simply amazing!! Your vision and willingness to investment in the future is incredible. Please review the amazing success of the Conservation Fund at - <https://www.wyomingwildsheep.org/foundation.asp>

Wyoming Governor's Big Game License Coalition - BHS Tag sales - With the Governor's annual approval, 5 BH sheep licenses are marketed across the nation at various wild sheep fundraisers. The vast majority of the funds generated come back to Wyoming. WY-WSF partners with the WGFD to determine dispersal of the funds.

This past year the 5 licenses sold for \$70-\$75,000 EACH! The highest priced one was sold at our Casper annual event. This program has generated \$1.9M for wild sheep in the past 13 years. Bottom line - even greater security for the future of our kids and sheep on the mountain. We sincerely thank Governor Mead, and all the support folks who continue to make this program such a success.

I have only touched the surface of your accomplishments over past few months. Please scour this issue of the Rampage and our web site for additional news and accomplishments <https://www.wyomingwildsheep.org/index.asp>

Thank YOU for helping keep those kids and sheep on the mountain.



Join the Conservation Fund, Invest in the Future Thank you Donors!

Photo Credit: Dean DiJenno



Photo Credit: Mark Gocke



Desert Sheep \$100+

Jack Welch
Casey Tiltrum
Christopher Otto
Craig Kling
Dave Hill
Dean DiJenno
Diane DiJenno
Don Chase
Edwin Brolyer
Erica Flomm
Erik Alberts
Gary Keene
Hank Alexander
J.W.Harris
James Schroeder
Jerry Galles
Jim Collins
Joe Hutchison
John Burd
Josh Burd
Lorna Joslin
Mellisa Burd
Michael Van Biema
Mike Brownwell

Desert Sheep \$100+

Mike Porter
Sam Lockwood
Sara Domek
Sean Burd
Stacie Berg
Steve Kilpatrick
T.K. Atkinson
Tim Sundles
Travis Bomengen
Wayne Henderson
Zack McDermott
Dale & Jacque Sims
Greg Pope
Kathleen Treanor
Bill Obeid
Paul Dona
Scott, Tera & Chance
Butler
James D. Rice

Stone Sheep \$500+

Adam Johnson
Buddy DuVall
Cole Hansen
Kevin Hurley
Kurt Eisenach
Sam Lockwood
Scott Williams

Dall Sheep \$1000+

Butch & Kathy
Townsend III
Cole Benton
George Law
John O'Brien
Len Camp
Marvel Cosner
Mike Thomas
Rice Family Foundation
WY-WSF

Big Horn Sheep \$10,000+

Chris & Shelley Cohagan
Eric & Kathy Johnson
Jim Collins
Noblock Fund
Ron Lockwood
Gary Butler



2016 FULL CURL TABLE PURCHASERS

Businesses and individuals listed on the opposite page (if logos were available) made significant investments for Wyoming's bighorn sheep by purchasing a "full curl" table for 8 attendees at our June 4, 2016 banquet in Casper.

We thank them for their support, and invite others who might be interested in a full curl table for our 2017 fundraising banquet to please contact President Jerry Galles, Executive Director Steve Kilpatrick, or any WY-WSF board member.

We appreciate your outstanding support, and look forward to another great banquet/fund raiser in 2017!

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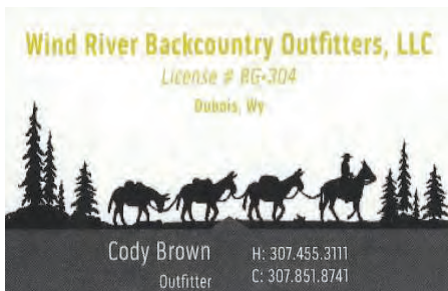
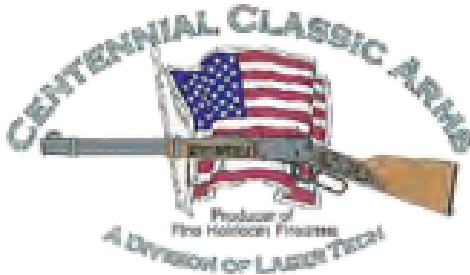
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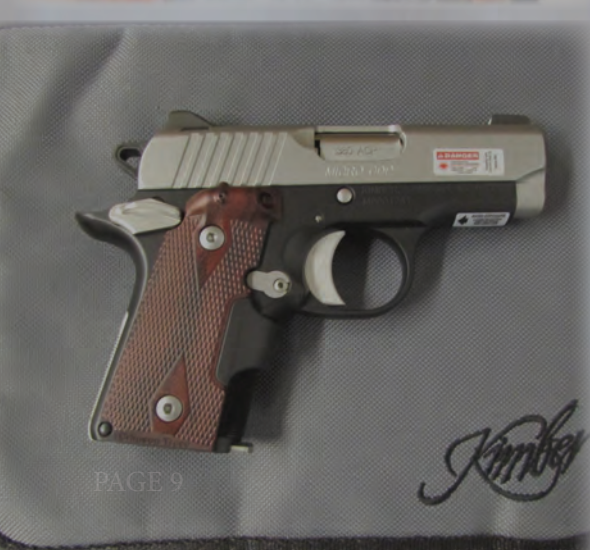


CONSERVATION FUND RAISING

Our conservation fund's operating agreement specifies that our chapter must raise \$250,000 over the next ten years (for the full operating agreement go to: www.wyomingwildsheep.org/agreement) to meet our goal. By achieving this lofty goal we will ensure that grant in aid projects will be funded for years to come using the interest generated by the funds principal. A contest will be held to assist with raising the funds needed. Donors will receive one chance for each \$100 contribution to the Conservation Fund. At the 2016 banquet in Casper we will draw for the winner of the Kimber Micro Carry .380 Auto with Laser sight. At the 2017 banquet we will draw again and award the Grand Prize, the Winchester Jack O' Connor Model 70 in .270 in a handmade wooden presentation case which is lined with sheep hide. You need not be present to win and may donate as many times as you wish. Tickets can be purchased at all of our events and on line at: www.wyomingwildsheep.org/store.



The legendary Jack O'Connor is considered by many to be the father of the .270 Winchester caliber. His passion and dedication to the caliber and the game animals he pursued is evident in this custom tribute rifle. Its hammer-forged, featherweight contour, polish blued barrel is free-floating for extreme accuracy and sports a target crown to prevent damage to the rifling. The Pre-64 action features a classic three-position safety and M.O.A.™ Trigger system for increased versatility. AAA, high-grade, French walnut stock has an ebony forearm tip and shadow line cheek piece that draws directly from Jack's original rifle. The floor plate and grip cap are artistically engraved and Jack's signature is written in nickel on the trigger guard. Checkered metal butt plate resists slipping when shouldered.





Life Member Ray Lozier and his son, Cameron, rode long and hard to find this bruiser buck last Fall.



Life Member Sierra Amundson with her hunting partner, and brother, LM Drake, and a fine Spring Turkey.



Life Members Mike and Gage Porter found their Spring Turkeys on a hunt at Hidden Valley Ranch guided by our VP Kurt Eisenach..



LM#380, Gage Porter, with his very first archery bull elk.



LM Steve Shivy's grandkids, Hayden and Mason Schmer, went on a handgun hunt for rock chucks.



LMember(and ED)Steve Kilpatrick assisted grandkids, Emily and Levi, on a painted grouse hunt.

GREG PETERSEN'S

As I eased my rifle into position for a shot at the massive Big Horn Ram below me, my mind flashed back over the many years and experiences that had brought me to this point.

37 years ago, my dad, Fred, had drawn a sheep permit for this same Gannet Peak Area in Wyoming, and at the age of 18, I got to go with him. At that time we owned a hunting lodge and outfitting business. I had guided numerous deer and elk hunters, but this was to be my first sheep hunt. This sheep area is high elevation and extremely rugged. It is considered by many to be the most difficult terrain on the North American Continent. We were successful on the hunt, taking a huge 41 inch broomed ram, which according to the Wyoming Game and Fish Department was the largest ram taken in the state in the past 30 years. It was an amazing experience, and I was immediately hooked and addicted to sheep and sheep hunting.

Over the next 36 years, I guided many sheep hunters, taking around 40 rams, including a nice one of my own about 25 years ago. My dad went on many of these hunts as a cook and/or wrangler. He also has the Grand Slam and he never lost his passion for sheep hunting, and loved being on the trips.

Fast forward to year 2015, I had maximum draw points, so was not surprised I drew a license. But I was very excited to be going on my own hunt after all the years of guiding others. I quickly amassed a very willing team for the hunt, consisting of the Saxton brothers, Casey and Cody, and my good friend Dave Pape. All three had previously hunted this area with me and taken

large rams. And each was tough, enthusiastic, and a good sheep guide in his own right. Although we were all in good shape, we did extensive training for this most demanding of all hunts.

The day to pack in for the hunt finally arrived and we all congregated at the trail head at the Green River Lakes. Good friends, Bubba Haley and Mary Ann Menster, had offered to help pack us in and then bring the mules back out. My dad, at 81 years of age was there to see us off, but did not go on the trip. We quickly saddled and packed the mules and were soon off on our 15 mile ride to the horse camp. The sure-footed mules made for a pleasant ride through the spectacular scenery. Sheer cliffs of 2000 ft rose on each side of us as we approached our destination. Upon arrival we unpacked the mules and set up camp as Cody bar-b-qued steaks for our last "regular" meal before going on our freeze dried diets.

The following morning after breakfast, we helped saddle the 9 mules, and Bubba and Mary Ann departed leading the pack strings back to the trail head. We turned our attention to the mountain ahead of us. This was strictly a "grunt it out day" where we would gain 4000 ft vertical elevation through massive boulder fields with heavy packs. This was probably the reason no other hunters were in this area. The climb was long and uneventful. We arrived at our spike camp #1 by mid afternoon. We set up our tents and had our freeze dried Mountain House dinners. This camp was just below timberline, so we had a nice fire in the evening as our anticipation grew.

In the morning, which was the day before the season opening, we moved higher, and set up spike camp #2, which was well above timberline. It was in a flat between the two large drainages which would be our primary hunting areas. The balance of the day was spent resting and spotting for sheep. We located a number of nice rams, increasing our anticipation for opening day.

Opening morning arrived and we were up well before daylight eating our standard breakfast of oatmeal and coffee. We carefully covered a lot of area, seeing several rams, some of which were 7-8 year olds.

After my many years of hunting this area, and taking many large rams, I was determined to hold off in hopes of finding that mythical huge ram that we all dream about.

In the middle of the afternoon, we spotted 9 rams at about 3/4 of a mile away - lo and behold, there was my mythical ram! As we examined him in our spotting scopes, we were amazed at his size. The other 8 rams fed their way over the top of the ridge and out of sight. The big one remained bedded on top of a little knoll where he could survey a 360 degree vista. Finally, he got up and eased over the top to join his group. This was our opportunity. The wind was in our favor as we quickly closed the distance to the rams. We carefully crept up the low ridge between us and the rams. I peeked over the top of the ridge, and there were the 9 rams feeding 300 yds below us. As I prepared a good rest for my gun, my flashback of the past 37 years seemed like an eternity, but

SHEEP HUNTING REPORT

probable lasted only a few seconds. The shot echoed through the high peaks and the huge ram was down. There was no ground shrinkage on this monster 11 year old ram, and there were many high fives, bear hugs, and tears as the reality of this accomplishment sank in. My three friends who I had guided on different years to their rams, had now, together helped me fulfill this lifelong dream. What a special moment!

After much picture taking, we capped out the head, boned the meat, and loaded our packs. The sun was just going down and we had a long

hike ahead of us. We cut across to spike camp #1 and left the sheep there. We then climbed to our spike camp #2, arriving at 1:00 AM and were exhausted. We crawled into our sleeping bags and slept well. The following morning, we packed up spike camp #2 and trekked back to camp #1. We finished preparing the sheep cape, rested, and ate a lot of sheep heart and steaks. The next day we took the long hike down to the horse camp with heavy packs. We had previously called Hubba by satellite phone with the news, requesting a pick up. Shortly after we arrived at the horse camp, Hubba rode in with the string of

mules. When you are sore footed with a heavy pack, there is no greater sight than a friendly mule!!

We had a great sheep steak dinner, a few beers, and any stories. The next day we saddled up, loaded mules, and rode the pleasant 15 miles back to the trail head. My dad was there to meet us. This was the culmination of my amazing 37 year sheep career in which my dad took a record book ram in the 1st. year, and I followed with a record book ram in the 37th year.

I want to thank my dad, my clients, and my good friends who all made this journey possible for me.



“THE RON BALL MEMORIAL AWARD”

Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation's Highest Honor

by Kevin Hurley
Senior Conservation Director
Wild Sheep Foundation
Bozeman, MT

Each year since 2003, the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation has presented what is known as the “Ron Ball Memorial Award”, in recognition of one of the Chapter's original five founders.

Ron Ball was a rancher and outfitter from the Big Piney area who served as either President or Vice-President of Wyoming FNAWS (at that time) for 11 of our first 14 years of existence. Ron was a big man, whose presence and contributions were also huge. Ron and his family were dedicated volunteers who organized many early Chapter events, meetings, and live/silent auctions.

Wording on the Ron Ball Award speaks highly of the type of individual Ron was, and what he did for wild sheep in Wyoming. This award reads:

“Presented Annually, In Recognition of Outstanding Achievement Toward the Betterment of Wyoming's Bighorn Sheep”

I was fortunate enough to be the first recipient of this special recognition in 2003, and this award holds a special spot on my wall. As you can see, over the past 14 years, a virtual “Who's Who” of dedicated individuals have been recognized by the Wyoming Chapter for their contributions to Wyoming's bighorn sheep.

2003 Kevin Hurley
2004 Jim Collins
2005 Gov. Dave Freudenthal
2006 Melanie Woolever
2007 Steve Kilpatrick
2008 Terry Cleveland
2009 Gary Butler
2010 Fritz Meyer
2011 Cole Benton
2012 Dennis Claman
2013 Bob Sundeen
2014 Tom Easterly (D)
2015 Doug McWhirter
2016 Lynn Stewart

The Ron Ball Memorial Award is presented during the annual June banquet. Nominations may be made by the WY-WSF Board of Directors and/or past award recipients; selection of the recipient is made by the past winners. So, if WY-WSF members know of someone they would like to see nominated for this award, please notify one of the current Board of Directors, or one of the past recipients.

None of us do what we do for wild sheep to receive credit or recognition. However, there are some individuals that do so much, and help lead the way, that taking a moment to look back, helps all of us move forward!



Lynn Stewart with the first of his FNAWS trophies, a Big Horn Sheep harvested in 1984!



2016 Ron Ball Award Winner, Lynn Stewart

“Lynn Stewart is an incredible asset to the wild sheep world and to his hometown community of Dubois. From his early years as a Forest Service backcountry ranger, to his life as a hunting guide and his current art bringing bighorns and other wildlife to life through his taxidermy, Lynn lives a life devoted to continual learning about and conservation of bighorn sheep and other wildlife. Lynn has been an active life member of the WY Wild Sheep Foundation for since 1998, and also served a 10 year term as a WY WSF Board Member. Lynn is a very active Life Member

and longtime supporter of the National Bighorn Sheep Center, where visitors are able to learn about wild sheep and other mountain wildlife through Lynn’s skilled taxidermy. When Lynn isn’t busy exploring the Winds or Absarokas, he is giving back to his community, whether it’s at the local DAWGS group fundraiser (Dubois Anglers and Wildlife Group), or showing up to support his neighbors and friends at just about every community event held in Dubois, even dressing up in his traditional handcrafted beaded buckskins to really impress the crowd. His knowledge and familiarity with

the Upper Wind River Country, western Wyoming landscapes and wildlife inspires all who are lucky enough to spend time with him. Lynn’s cherished mother, Pat Stewart recently passed away earlier this year, and generous contributions were made in honor of Pat to the National Bighorn Sheep Center. Lynn is the most well deserved candidate of the Ron Ball Award to honor his great life contributions to Wyoming’s wild sheep.”

(Editors Note: The text quoted here is from Sara Domek’s introduction of Lynn at our 2016 banquet)

IN MEMORY OF BRIAN SCOTT GAMROTH

Brian Scott Gamroth, a K2 radio announcer and one of Wyoming's biggest media figures, died Sunday in a motorcycle crash near Lewistown, Montana, the Casper radio station announced late that day.

Gamroth worked at K2 Radio for more than two decades, hosting its popular morning radio program. He developed a devoted audience that spanned the state, from the Oil City to far-flung rural communities.

Some of Wyoming's top officials, such as Gov. Matt Mead and Sen. John Barrasso, were regulars on his morning program. But Gamroth was equally adept at connecting with everyday people and small business owners.

"Brian was one of those people who loved what he did, loved this city, and loved Wyoming," Bob Price, general manager for Townsquare Media in Wyoming, wrote in the announcement, which was posted to the K2 Radio website. "But first and foremost for him was his family."

Scott, who was known for his community involvement and support of the arts, was returning from a Shriner's event in Canada at the time of the crash.

He at times served on numerous boards, including for the Nicolaysen Art Museum, the Wyoming Symphony Orchestra and the Casper Children's Theatre.

He used his fame in Wyoming to raise millions of dollars for nonprofits while serving as an event emcee. For example, he helped raise money for updates to the Gertrude Krampert Center at Casper College, as well as thousands of dollars in arts and humanities scholarships for the school.

Gamroth was married and had three children, according to a biography on the K2 website.

Editors Note: Many of you will remember Bryan's booming voice and big smile at our banquets as he served as master of ceremonies and helped put thousands of wild sheep on Wyoming's mountains.



H.A. 5 DO IT YOURSELFER

BY BRADLEY FOSTER

Going into the 2014 hunting season I had a lot on my mind. My girlfriend at the time was getting promoted from Laramie, Wyoming to Nashville, Tennessee. I was going to go with her, but there was something that I needed to do first. The move was on the back of my mind because my pocket was full. My pocket was full with a Bighorn Sheep tag. It was a shock to me, and everyone else that I drew a sheep tag with only 1 point. Going into 2014 I have 7 moose points and 1 sheep point. I was living in Laramie at the time, but was in Cheyenne taking an HVAC test for my career. I turned in the test right as my phone alarm was going off for me to check to see if I drew any tags. I almost dropped my phone when I saw those pretty words, "Successful Bighorn sheep area 5." I called my dad just to see if he drew any of his tags. I told him I drew a sheep tag, but I am a prankster so he didn't believe me. I had to post it on Facebook so he would believe me. Once I saw that I had the tag, the planning started. My best friend, and hunting buddy, Dustin was in long before I asked him. I did the best I could from the internet, google maps, and calling my cousin that lives by Dubois. Trying to get the best plan when I had time to get up there. Turns out that I had a lot more time than I thought, because I got fired from my job for going out to Nashville to do some house hunting. I had to work some side jobs just to save up for the hunt and trip out to Nashville.

Before I could go hunting I had to buy some gear. I was on a budget, so everything I got had to be within reason but dependable when you are at 12,000+ feet. I had a dream list of the equipment that I wanted, then there was a budget list that had more items crossed off then the dream list. I didn't go into anything too fancy.

I got some full curl Danner boots, a pair of Bushnell 12x42 binoculars from Walmart, and a large Tenzing pack. Those were the items that I spent most of my money on. All together around \$700. From the years of hunting growing up I already had a 30-06 that was passed down from my father. I added other things I would need along the way like a rain coat, dehydrated food, water bladders, and first aid kit.

Another thing that I added my time and money into is a gym membership. I have always been an active person, but no matter how active you are, you are never in sheep shape. Nothing like getting up there at 12,000 feet with a pack full of your life, hiking around slick rocks, and making sure you don't hurt yourself. I feel like this is the most important item on the list. With all this planning on the hunt and the move to Nashville, my mind was always off in space. Thinking about the next step to make sure that I was planning safely, and making sure that I would be able to see sheep let along harvest my dream ram (full curl, chocolate, and character).

Round 1

I started off hunting outside of Meeteetse, Wyoming past Sunshine Reservoir. The first round of this hunt I was hunting by myself. I started going towards Irish Rock and then it started snowing. It was coming down so hard that I could not see where I was going. I dropped my pack, and I had to set up my tent to ride out the storm. I was just hovering around for about an hour. I kept looking outside to see if it was letting up, and it was not. After about an hour and half it let up enough for me to see where I was and my view. I was in a very large bowl just at the base of Irish Rock. It was amazing how pretty it was with all the fresh

snow. There was 3 fresh inches of snow, while it was still snowing a little. The best part was right when I was getting ready to strap on my pack and see if there were any sheep on Irish Rock, a bull and his harem were walking through the bowl. He was a pretty 6-point bull that would score 350+ easy. That evening I went to the top of the bowl and looked into a much larger bowl, and all I saw were some elk and some ewes. My first sheep sighting with a sheep tag in my pocket. At this moment is when I fell in love with sheep hunting. Just watching the ewes and lambs move in the rocks was just amazing. Very flawlessly.

Round 2

I decided to go on the east side of the hunt area near Dubois. I have hunted this area with my dad a lot. This is where he grew up hunting. We would always see sheep up on Indian Ridge. We never saw any big rams, but we would always see a few. The first morning I drove up there in my four-wheeler, and sure enough right off the road was 15 ewes, lambs, and a half curl ram. My first ram that I was able to throw my glasses on. He was only 20 yards off the road, but he was still pretty. These sheep were used to four wheelers driving up and down the road, so they paid me no mind. I just drove and hiked up there for a couple of days just to make sure that there were no larger rams. I kept telling myself if Francs Peak doesn't work out, then this guy would be my fall back ram so that I am not eating my tag.

Final Round

I went into Riverton to pick up my buddy. His girlfriend wasn't very happy that I was taking him. He was chomping to get to the mountains. This is where we belong.

It didn't take him long to throw his pack into the truck, and we were off. We parked the truck at the base of the mountain this time, and drove the four wheeler up the icy roads. I found out from round 1 that they were icy when my truck was going sideways down the hill and the only thing that stopped me was a rock

in the road. If it wasn't there then I would probably still be sliding down that hill. So we parked the truck, and loaded up on the wheeler. We ran into a forest service worker that was on a four wheeler as well. He took down our information just in case my truck was still there longer than this week. We followed the forest until we couldn't go anymore. We parked the four wheeler at the gate and then headed south towards Francs Peak.

Our GPS said we were at 12,500. With our packs on our backs we took off. We rounded the first knob, and then we saw all the sheep. There was about 50 ewes, lambs, and young rams. We squatted there just to watch them and see if any of the rams were shooters. We did not see anything that would make me want to pull the trigger on. We went up and down another ridge and that is where we set up our tent for the night.

Photo by Dustin H



The next morning, we woke up to the sound of rocks sliding down. We opened the tent door, and with the sun barely coming up we saw three spike elk walking right towards our bright orange tent. We were wondering what the elk were doing that high. Usually you don't see elk that high let alone spike elk. They didn't stay very long. We also saw all the ewes and lambs again. We strapped on our packs and decided to hop over the ridge to peek. We found out quick that there is a difference between hunting in elk country and hunting in sheep country. Elk country you are usually in the trees or a nice grassy meadow. In sheep country all that you see are rocks, cliffs, and more rocks. When we popped over the first ridge we saw something amazing. We felt like the only people in the world when we looked into the next bowl. In the next bowl laid over 75 ewes, lambs, and young rams. They were playing and running. The world was so quiet that we heard some of them on the cliffs kicking rocks down below. They were very entertaining to watch, and just be in the moment with the sheep. We stayed there the remainder of the day just watching them. That evening we decided that we needed to find some timber to start a fire instead of using our gel fuel cans. We just had to go the next ridge over to find timber and a creek. The creek supplied us with fresh water, which was by far the best water I have ever drank. For the evening hunt we hiked up the creek to see where all the water was coming from. We found some more ewes, lambs, and young rams early on the evening. We were at the base of Francs Peak, and that was the perfect sheep country. We were glassing, when we saw the three rams right above our camp. We had enough light to go after them that night, but we had a few more days. We decided to put them to bed and see what happened the next morning.

That night all we could talk about was seeing the three rams through the spotting scope. Two of the rams looked identical, and the other was a little smaller but still respectable.

The morning seemed to take forever to come. We were up way before sunrise heading towards where we last saw them bed down. I was so excited that I forgot my binoculars. We decided to unload everything from our packs, because we were going to be hauling a sheep off this mountain today. We started hiking up into the sheep's environment. What they made look so easy was not so easy for us. It felt like we were rock climbing more than hiking. As the sun was coming up we peaked over the edge and we saw the smaller



of the three rams. He was out there around 500 yards. I was nervous because he was the only one that we saw out of the three. We decided to try and get closer to the smaller ram in hopes to find one of the other two that were bigger. Dustin was leading the way. He was more sure footed than I was, so I made sure to step where he stepped. He was like a mountain goat on this trip. He was leading us through a key hole in the rocks when he stopped

and said, "Brad, SHEEP!" It was not in a whisper or a yell. It was in his normal voice. He was within 10 yards for this full curl, chocolate ram. We watched this animal go up and down three fingers like they were nothing. He stopped, broad side at 250 yards. I had him in my sights and I squeezed the trigger before he could run further up the mountain.

Next thing I see is the ram is tumbling down the mountain. I told him to stop rolling, but he didn't listen. He kept tumbling, and rolling. I thought since he was going to roll, might as well roll all the way to camp so we don't have to carry him very far. After a few whoops and high fives, we look over, and the other two rams are looking back at us wondering what we just did. After the ram was down we realized that the real work has just started. We found the finger that he tumbled down and we tracked his blood but didn't see him at the bottom of the mountain like I expected. He fell at the base of a large rock that had a natural spring near it. It was amazing to me how much water was up in the cliffs and rocks. I couldn't wait to get my hands on his massive horns.

At first sight I noticed that his face was all bloody. I was thinking that he hit his nose on a rock on the way down. I learned later that it was from other rams. When they would head butt each other one ram hit him on the nose. He had a big lump of scare tissue on his nose, just about where he was bleeding. Once I grabbed on to his head I couldn't help but smile, but also realize that his mass means a heavier pack on the way out. We get our pictures with him and then started boning him out.

We loaded up our packs and headed back to camp. We were able to get him down, and packed up before noon. We decided that we would start heading out to the four wheeler. We had to pack him out in two trips because he was that heavy. Once we were heading for the second trip there was the prettiest lighting and thunder storm that we have ever seen. It was pretty, yet terrifying on how close it seemed like we were. We finally made it to the truck around 3 a.m. We were exhausted. We could barely move because we followed the creek the whole way up, and we had to cross it a few times. We were soaked from the rain and crossing the creek.

Recovery

After hunt like that and putting your body through that extreme you need some time to recover. From Meeteetse, WY to Lander, WY we stopped at a little café. We could barely move. We walked into this café like we just got hit by a bus. All the locals were looking at us like we just kicked each other's butt outside. We had a nice hot breakfast with coffee before we headed to Lander to get the sheep plugged.

At the Game and Fish office, the warden counted 10 rings. The ram was a 10 and half year-old ram. He had chunks taken out of both horns. He had a lot of character, and I was proud to show him off. Then the

game warden made me cry. I knew they had to plug the horns, but I didn't know how they were going to do it. The game warden walked towards my ram with a drill in his hands, and started drilling on the back side of his horn. When he was drilling the horn, I was watching pieces of my ram land on the asphalt. A couple of tears filled my eyes. We worked so hard to get this ram just to have a guy drill a hole into his horn.

After we told the warden about the hunt we loaded up the ram and headed to Rawlins where we would finish packing him up and finding a taxidermist to make my ram look amazing. After I took the ram to the taxidermist we decided that he deserved a name. Since he was harvested at the base of Francs Peak, we thought it was fitting to name him Franc. Franc, the ram, is on the wall with all the character he has. He has the big lump on his nose from fighting as well as his chunks missing on his horns. He might not be a record book ram, but he has a great story with him. He has fueled my passion for hunting more than I already had for hunting. He has also made me encourage more people to get into sheep hunting.

There is no hunting like sheep hunting. You feel like you are on top of the world, where no one else has ever been..

The main reason why I wrote this article was to show you that you don't have to have thousands of dollars to go sheep hunting. I will admit that I was lucky to have drawn a Wyoming resident tag with only 1 point. There are people that have 15 points and didn't draw. I was also willing to work to get the ram that I wanted. I was told by multiple people that I was not going to get a good ram unless I hired an outfitter. But I wanted the thrill of doing it myself. Here is roughly the amount of money that I spent on this hunt.

Resident Bighorn sheep tag- \$117

Danner hunting boots- \$200

Bushnell binoculars- \$125

Tenzing hunting pack- \$225

Bullets for the 30-06- \$80

Backpacking tent- \$100

Light rain coat- \$20

Food and water- \$150

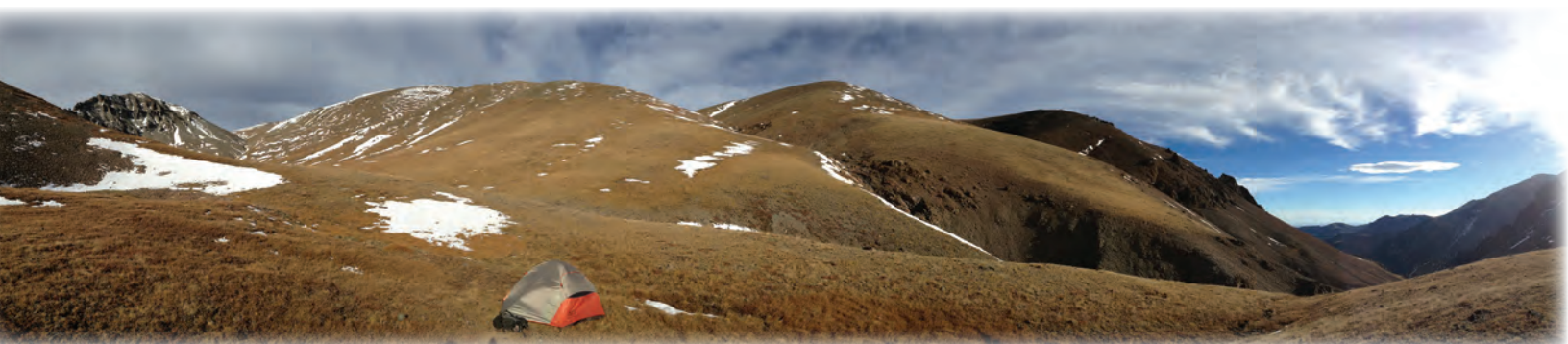
Fuel for the trips roughly- \$300

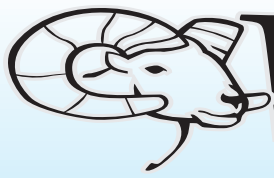
Total- \$1317

Taxidermist- \$850

Bighorn Sheep hunting total- \$2,167

Things I already had that were very useful: spotting scope, light durable hunting clothes (socks, pants, layers of shirts) backpack sleeping bag 0 degree rated, rifle with scope (30-06 with viper scope from vortex)





Wyoming

Wild Sheep Foundation

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1st Prize: WG&F Commissioners 2017 license

2nd Prize: 7 day Caribbean Cruise or \$2000.00

3rd Prize: Kimber Classic .338 Win Mag Rifle

4th Prize: Nikon 13 30x50mm Field Scope

5th Prize: Ruger Precision 6.5 Creedmore Rifle

6th Prize: Ruger Redhawk .44 Mag Pistol

7th Prize: Sony Cyber Shot DSC-HX300 Camera

8th Prize: Nikon Monarch7, 10x42 Binoculars

9th Prize: Bushnell 14mp Trophy Cam HD

10th Prize: Ruger American .45 ACP Pistol

Drawing will be held June 3, 2017 at the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation annual banquet in Casper, Wyoming. Winners need not be present to win. For more information, and to order tickets online, please visit our website <http://www.wyomingwildsheep.org/>

OR

For tickets, contact: WY-WSF, P.O. Box 666, Cody, WY 82414.
(307) 527-7008 - info@wyomingwildsheep.org



2016 1st Prize Winner T.K. Atkinson with
M.C. Brian Scott

Winter Fund raiser/Banquet/Field Tour to be held in Saratoga on December 2-3, 2016!

Friday, December 2th

2:00-5:00 PM: Board Meeting, Saratoga Hot Springs Resort & Spa

5:00-9:00 PM Informal Gathering and Hors D'Oeuvres at the Resort- \$12

Saturday December 3th

8:30-3:00 PM: Meet at Saratoga Hot Springs Resort & Spa for a Wild Sheep viewing & Habitat Tour to Barret Ridge, A Bar A, and State Line Ranches. . Tour is dependent on winter conditions and access availability.



11:00: Brown Bag lunch for \$10 person. (Lunch choices will be made on Friday evening.)

3:45-5:00 PM WY-WSF: Membership Meeting, Saratoga Hot Springs Resort & Spa

5:30 PM: Cash Bar, Raffles, Silent Auction items, Saratoga Hot Springs Resort & Spa

6:30 PM: Buffet style Dinner featuring Beef Brisket, Pork, and Chicken entrees, with all of the fixings for \$35/adult, children 18 and under eat free.

Register on line at: [www. Wyomingwildsheep.org/store.asp](http://www.Wyomingwildsheep.org/store.asp) for Friday night, Saturday lunch and/or dinner by Nov 10th.

Call Dean DiJenno at (307) 527-7008 to reserve spots and pay at the door.

Formal Presentations During/After Dinner include:

- Will Schultz, Saratoga Area Biologist
- Lee Knox, Laramie Area Biologist
- Doug McWhirter - 2016 Harvest Update

To make your own lodging arrangements, please call: Saratoga Hot Springs Resort & Spa (307) 326-5261, starting at \$125 night, 25 rooms blocked under **Wy Wild Sheep**. Room blocks expire on November **18th**.





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GRANT IN AID UPDATES

Editors Note: The RamPage is all about member's hunt stories and experiences in the wild, but so we don't forget the purpose of Wyoming's Wild Sheep Foundation we are introducing this new section detailing results achieved by our grant in aid funding partners.

Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation: Grant In Aid Updates National Bighorn Sheep Interpretive Association

NBSIC Intern Update

Through the generous support of the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation and the grant-in-aid request received in December 2015, the National Bighorn Sheep Interpretive Association hired our first part-time staff dedicated specifically to our Education Program. Karen Sullivan, of Dubois was hired in June to begin digging into the Bighorn Sheep Center's Education Program. In four short months, Karen has not only helped to reorganize and assess our current educational offerings, but she also

created new learning activities, updated our Educational Trunks, and is in the process of developing curriculum-based teaching tools and activities specific to bighorn sheep. Karen has also been active at the Center learning about the biology, ecology and habitat of not only our local Whiskey Mountain herd but also other regional herds with generous assistance from Doug McWhirter, Aly Courtemanch, Greg Anderson and Bart Kroger of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. Using specific information from the various herd units in northwest Wyoming, Karen is also creating Wyoming-specific online teaching guides (based on Bear Trust International's online lesson plan), which we plan to make available to regional teachers later this school year. With the support of another recent grant from the local Never Sweat Recreation Board, we are happy to announce that Karen will continue her part-time work with the Bighorn Sheep Center through this fall and winter, enabling us to reach more students, teachers and Center visitors. With the record-level visitation

this summer at the Center, we are thrilled to be able to ground our educational offerings to more students and visitors. We could not achieve this without the support and partnership with the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation, and we thank this great organization for the generous support of the Center.

NBSIC Video Remake Update

The National Bighorn Sheep Interpretive Association has delayed completion of the new bighorn film due to the busy summer season. We anticipate focusing on this project to complete over the upcoming winter months when we have adequate time and resources to contribute to this project. Several great filmmakers and photographers are being explored, with help from Kevin Hurley of the Wild Sheep Foundation and others, to best suit our film needs and budget. We look forward to the next several months to continue focusing on this important project, and we are grateful for the support of the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation.



GRANT IN AID UPDATES

Harvest Records and Horn Size Analysis Grant in Aid update by Dr. Kevin Monteith.

Trends in horn size of wild mountain sheep in North America

Bighorn sheep have some of the most impressive horns of all big game species. Their horns play an important role in the social dynamics of wild sheep populations and can indicate the fitness of individuals. Horns are also important to hunters who are often interested in harvesting large horned animals from herds. Recent research has produced some controversial results about what affects horn size and this information is being used to try to change

hunting regulations and the definition of a “legal ram”. Consequently, we need to fully understand how the size and growth of horns is affected by rates of harvest, environmental effects, and the age and sex structure of the population for the continued management of healthy mountain sheep populations.

Horn size and growth rate are influenced by three key factors: age, genetics and nutrition. Past research on how harvest affects size of North American big game species has shown there has been small declines in the size of trophy record book entries through time. Wild sheep in particular have shown variable patterns, and have smaller record

book entries now when compared to 50 years ago. This is thought to be related to a reduction in the average age of rams in a population, as opposed to a change in the genetic potential of individuals. Nevertheless, research conducted in a wild sheep population in Alberta suggests that under intense and highly-selective harvest pressure, selective harvest along with changes in nutrition, can lead to a detectable



reduction in horn size over time that is thought to be genetically-based. If this effect of selective harvest is occurring in other populations we may want to change our management strategies to reverse this detrimental effect and maintain healthy sheep populations. Given the uncertainty in whether hunter selection and current harvest regimes are strong enough to cause a decline in horn size, we will be studying patterns of horn size across geographical areas with different harvest regulations. Understanding these trends will help to shed light on the relative roles of hunter selection, nutrition, and age structure on horn size in mountain

sheep. To address these important questions, our research will synthesize a long-term, dataset of bighorn and thinhorn sheep harvest records from across their ranges in North America. This dataset will include data already being diligently collected by most wildlife agencies for populations with different harvest regulations throughout their range. How horn size in mountain sheep is responding to both harvest and environmental factors may vary between regions and harvest strategies. Evaluating these differences over time and space will help us understand how varying factors influence horn size in wild sheep, and can give us more insight than studying a single population.

This project began in the fall of 2015 and is led by Tayler LaSharr, a graduate student in the Wyoming Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at the University Wyoming, under the direction of Dr. Kevin Monteith and collaborators Dr. Ryan Long, Dr. Terry Bowyer, Dr. Vernon Bleich, Dr. Paul Krausman, and Mr. Jim Heffelfinger. Current efforts are focused on collaborating with state and provincial wildlife agencies to collect and summarize existing harvest data into a single dataset for analysis. This project will help resolve some of the conflicting ideas on the controversial topic of selective harvest and wild sheep management, which can in turn promote sustainable harvest and the continued management of sheep.

Editors Note: Learn more about our Grant in Aid Projects by visiting our webpage at: www.wyomingwildsheep.org/GIA. Beginning with the December 2015 session, each project has its own clickable link with project application, and updates in their entirety.

GRANT IN AID UPDATES

WY-WSF & HWH HUNT ANTELOPE IN THERMOPOLIS

As Jim Collins(WY-WSF Board Member) and Dan Currah(HWH Executive Director) scanned the dining room at the VFW on Saturday night, October 1, they couldn't help but be astonished by how well the weekend had gone.

Starting with Friday's range shooting and dinner at the VFW and continuing Saturday with all 10 disabled vets harvesting trophy antelope, the event was a huge success. Two of the antelope were rumoured to score over 80 points.

There was more fun to come on Sunday with some of the Vets going fishing with the Healing Waters guys and others electing to go to the range for some trap shooting.

Everyone was to finish the adventure with a picnic at Jim and Cindy Collin's home that afternoon.

Many of the landowners who contributed their hunting licenses and businessmen who provided hotel rooms, butchering, or taxidermy work free of charge were also in attendance.

The VFW post really stepped up by providing meeting space and meals for the vets and guides through out the weekend.

Watch this magazine and the two organizations' webpages for more information on this hunt and the hunting veterans.

Thank You to the following for their contribution to this joint venture:

Hunting with Heroes
Thermopolis VFW Legion Post
WY Wild Sheep Foundation
Project Healing Waters Casper
Casper Vet Center
Hot Springs State Park
Days Inn
Wind River Processing
Herring Taxidermy
Lynn Steward Taxidermy
Wyoming Whiskey
Briess Malt & Ingredients
WOW (Wedding of the Waters)
Pheasants Forever Chapter
Reese & Ray's IGA

Guides
Chuck Bunch
Binky Fisher
Jim Lash
Steve Richins
T J Owsley
Scott Miller
Dan Herring
Jerry Lake
Shane Wilson
Ken Smith

Landowner Licenses
Jim & Terry Wilson
Tom & Coleen Anderson
Mike & Phyllis Baker
Jerry & Sharon Johnson
Mike & Corky Messenger
John & Virginia Baird
Jerry Lake Family

The Wicked River Outfitters logo features a stylized black goat head above the text "WICKED RIVER OUTFITTERS". Below the logo are four photographs of hunters with their trophies: a hunter with a large antelope head, a hunter with a deer head, a hunter with a large antelope head, and a hunter with a goat head.

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CELL: 250-321-1364
LODGE: 778-373-6112
BOOKER@WICKEDRIVER.COM
WWW.WICKEDRIVEROUTFITTERS.COM

GRANT IN AID UPDATES

Ferris Mountain Wild Sheep Transplant Grant in Aid Update

The three rams that were transplanted from Devils Canyon to the Ferris Mtns during the Spring of 2016 are doing well and showing some impressive horn growth. Photo credit: Mike Murry, Rangeland Management Specialist, Bureau of Land Management, Rawlins Field Office



Life Members Dale & Jacque Sims hunted moose with Wicked River this fall. They say that "Booker is the Best"!

WY-WSF'S 33RD ANNUAL CONVENTION



JUNE 3-4, 2016 IN CASPER, WY



GRANT IN AID UPDATES

Seminole Mountains guzzler project grant in aid update.
THIRST QUENCHER HAS BEEN INSTALLED!



GRANT IN AID UPDATES

The BLM, the WY G&F, the ID Ranch, and WY-WSF completed the installation of a guzzler in the Seminole on July 16-17, 2016. With the help of 24 volunteers and ID Ranch Manager Will Hudson, the Seminole's Wild Sheep now have another water source. Thanks to members from Water for Wildlife, Bowhunters of Wyoming, and the Wyoming Wildlife Federation for supporting our efforts to complete this project.



GRANT IN AID UPDATES

Bighorn Sheep in the Southern Winds..... A History and Update

Daryl Lutz – Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Pat Hnilicka – USFWS-Wind River Reservation

Bighorn sheep were native to the southern Wind River Mountains. Accounts by early Europeans indicate bighorn sheep were widely distributed and abundant. However, by the turn of the 20th century very few bighorn sheep remained in the southern Winds. By the early 1970s it was believed the only remaining bighorn sheep in the southern Winds occurred only west of the Continental Divide and there were no sheep in the current Temple Peak herd unit. On the Wind River Reservation (WRR) during the same period bighorn sheep were seen “from time to time” in North and South Forks of the Little Wind River and a young ram was

disease, competition with livestock, and human encroachment on winter ranges. Today, disease and shifts in habitat condition such as conifer

data it appears the sheep on the WRR include sheep observed through the summer and fall in the higher elevations of the Temple Peak herd unit in the South Fork of the Little

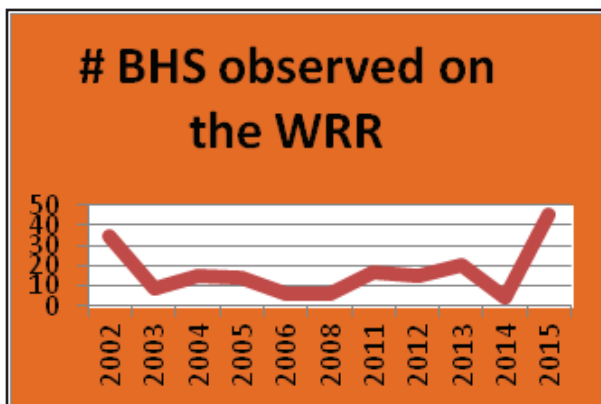
Year	Rams	Ewes	Male Lambs	Female Lambs	Totals	Release Site
1960	0	0	0	1	1	Sinks Canyon
1964	3	11	2	4	20	Sinks Canyon
1965	2	17	0	1	20	Sinks Canyon
1966	1	9	4	4	18	Sinks Canyon
1971	4	6	1	2	13	Cherry Creek
1972	15	23	1	0	39	Cherry Creek
1987	8	40	4	2	54	Sinks Canyon
1988	3	31	7	6	47	WRR - S. Fk. Little Wind River
1993	7	33	0	1	41	WRR - S. Fk. Little Wind River
Totals	47	183	23	23	276	

encroachment and expansion and increased prevalence/dominance of cheatgrass are primary concerns. From 1960 to 1987, 188 Whiskey Mountain bighorn sheep were transplanted into the Temple Peak herd unit. 88 bighorn sheep were released into adjacent habitats on the Wind River Reservation in 1988 and 1993.

Hunting seasons were conducted in the Temple Peak herd unit- Hunt Area 11 from 1963 through 1993 (it was closed in 1974 and 1975 presumably as a result of the extraordinarily hard winter of 1972/73). In that 30 year period, 42 rams were harvested and ranged in age from 3.35

Wind River and the Cirque of the Towers. In addition to these sheep, it is believed there are ~20 sheep in the North Fork Canyon of the Popo Agie within the herd unit. So, today best estimates would be ~60-65 sheep. In March, 2016 Wyoming Game and Fish Department, USFWS and the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Tribal Fish and Game Department, with support from the Wyoming Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation, collared 14 (2 in the Temple Peak herd unit and 12 on the WRR) and disease tested 15 bighorn sheep. The information from these collared sheep has and will continue to clarify the currently occupied habitat of the Temple Peak /WRR, as well as assess the disease status of this population.

The two sheep collared in the North Fork Canyon have stayed in the canyon with no significant movement from winter to summer habitats. Similarly, several of the sheep collared on the WRR at Washakie Reservoir have stayed in the same area. Six of the sheep collared on the WRR did move significant distances as they



killed near St. Lawrence Ridge in the mid-70s. Today bighorn sheep can be found in the Temple Peak herd unit and on the WRR, but in comparison to apparent historic numbers there are relatively very few of them. Several speculated the reasons for the declines were due to excessive market hunting,

to 12.35 years. There have been no seasons proposed since 1993. Today, despite past efforts to augment this population with transplanted sheep, it is estimated only about 60-65 animals remain in the Temple Peak herd unit and adjacent areas on the WRR. Based on current telemetry

GRANT IN AID UPDATES

migrated to higher elevations and have summered in the Cathedral Peak/Cirque of the Towers area and in the South Fork of Bull Lake Creek. Similar to the Whiskey Mountain sheep four of the collared ewes (3 from Trout Creek and 1 from Washakie Reservoir) have made forays from their high elevation summer ranges back to winter range. Three of those ewes returned to their high elevation summer ranges and the fourth seems to be making her way back up.

Disease testing results from these sheep were quite surprising, but pleasantly so. They are incredibly healthy and exhibited no ovipneumoniae or trehalosi. *M. haemolytica*/glucosida was detected in one ewe and one ram and *l*k+ Mannheimia in the same ram and one other ewe. On a statewide basis it can be argued these sheep are the “cleanest” in the state!! In addition to the lab tests it was apparent during capture how physically robust these sheep were especially compared to

those from Whiskey Mountain – which is where these sheep came from.

In 2017, it is hoped we can deploy an additional 7 collars on sheep on the WRR, the North Fork Canyon and in the Little Popo Agie drainage (assuming there are still sheep there) to further define important habitats including migration routes/corridors and lambing areas and to increase the sample of sheep disease tested. In addition, WGFD hopes to conduct summer distribution flights to assess the number of sheep migrating to high elevation summer ranges..... those accompanying the collared sheep. All this information is critical for managers to develop a path forward to best ensure sheep stay on the mountain in the southern Winds. On behalf of WGFD, USFWS and the Tribes we thank WY-WSF for your commitment to learning more about this remnant herd of bighorn sheep and your long-standing commitment to “put and keep bighorn sheep on the mountain.....”!



GRANT IN AID UPDATES

Hunting with Heroes

Giving Back to our Nation's Disabled Veterans

It seems like yesterday when Dan Currah was reading his hometown newspaper and read a story about [Colton Sasser](#), a courageous US Army soldier from Casper, Wyoming, who was recovering after a 200-pound bomb exploded under his vehicle while serving in Afghanistan. Dan visited Colton in the hospital and a profound friendship was born. Colton was just 21. Dan was "older" but they had strong common interests – the US Army (Dan is a Vietnam veteran), a love for big game hunting, a love for Wyoming, and a deep desire to help disabled veterans. It was Christmas 2012. It was the beginning of something big.

In 2013, Dan and Colton founded [Hunting with Heroes](#), a Wyoming non-profit with one goal – to give back to our nation's disabled veterans by offering them big game hunts in Wyoming. Word traveled fast. Closing out this year, Hunting with Heroes will have hosted 360 Wyoming hunts and welcomed veterans ages 21 to 91 from 30 states. In 2016 they'll host 150 hunts (up from eight in 2013), including two coveted sheep hunts – tags generously donated by Chris Sandmark and Fred Maguire.

How can you decide who goes? They drew names – one Wyoming veteran and one out-of-state veteran – from Hunting with Heroes alumni.

Ron Nading Jr., the Wyoming winner and Cody native, joined the Navy when he was 18. During the next 22 years he had four deployments to the Persian Gulf in support of Iraqi Freedom. He was deployed twice with Marine sniper platoons, and Ron rounded out his Navy career diving from submarines as an under-water demolition deep-sea diver. He retired as Chief Petty Officer.

Ron noted, "I struggled when I came home, but when I met Colton and Dan I felt like I was a part of something bigger than "me" again. It brought me out of a dark place. This sheep hunt is a once in a lifetime opportunity for me. I've met Chris Sandmark, a really incredible man who has a warrior's spirit. I am humbled to be a part of Hunting with Heroes."

Marine veteran, Doug Bassford of Los Banos, California, won the out-of-state tag. Doug was injured in the Gulf War by Iraqi artillery fire but good medical care kept him fighting to help drive Saddam out of Kuwait. His unit withdrew through hellish fields of burning oil wells and black clouds of toxic mist. In 2007, after eight years of duty, Sargent Bassford left the Marines, settled in California with his young family, and became a superintendent at a major construction company. In 2013 he crashed – a combination of combat injuries and debilitating PTSD. A six-month in-patient VA Trauma Recovery Program helped Doug, but it was the 2015 Hunting with Heroes program at North Portal,

Wyoming, that was the key.

Doug states, "It was transformational – a major turning point that opened a new world for me. I found hope and motivation. It was the best trip of any kind I've ever taken anywhere in my life. Now, winning Fred Maguire's sheep tag is simply unreal. I can't wait to meet him to thank him!"

The Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation (WWSF), a generous supporter of Hunting with Heroes, presented the organization with a significant donation earlier this year. Currah said, "We are grateful to the WWSF for their partnership and support. Our program is dependent on donations and volunteers, and the WWSF has provided both. We can't thank them enough for helping us offer hunts to these brave men and women who have sacrificed in the name of our country, and continue to enrich our lives every day."

For more information about Hunting with Heroes visit huntingwithheroes.org or check out [Hunting with Heroes Wyoming](#) on Facebook.

the Hunting with Heroes Central Wyoming Chapter near Casper.

About the author – Nelda Currah is a retired marketing executive and Dan Currah's wife. She is Chief Marketing Officer for Hunting with Heroes.

GRANT IN AID UPDATES



Ron Nading, a Navy veteran, hunted antelope with the Hunting with Heroes Central Wyoming Chapter near Casper



Doug Bassford, a Marine veteran, with his prize antelope at the Hunting with Heroes North Portal hunt. Image courtesy of Tibby Photography www.tibbyphotography.com_

GRANT IN AID UPDATES

Elk Mountain Water Development Project Progress and Expenditures

Four guzzlers were purchased during the spring of 2016. On August 31st and September 1st, the USFS, SDGFP, and WGFD put in two of four guzzlers (see Figures 1-3). The other two guzzlers are scheduled to be installed in either the summer of 2017 or 2018. Installation of the other two guzzlers is dependent on the completion of the last two pipelines. The USFS and SDGFP are currently seeking funding for the remaining two pipelines. Once funding is secured, the pipelines are planned on being installed during the summer of 2017.

Focusing on Solutions Owl Creek

The Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation is seeking cooperative solutions with the Hay Creek Land and Cattle Company to minimize contact between domestic sheep and bighorn sheep.

Such contact frequently results in the transmission of pneumonia related bacteria and catastrophic die-offs of bighorn sheep herds.

In this instance, Hay Creek Land

If the pipelines are completed before the start of winter, the two remaining guzzlers can be installed at the end of summer/early fall of 2017, however, if pipeline installation is not completed by the end of the summer 2017, they will be installed summer of 2018.

We would like to include the partner organizations in the installation of the last two guzzlers. When the plans for installing the last two guzzlers are made, partner organizations will be notified.

The well installation on the LAK ranch will be completed by the end of summer 2017.

Project expenditures for 2016 totaled \$24,918.99.

and Cattle Company desires to run domestic sheep on their deeded land parcels adjacent to Owl Creek, northwest of Thermopolis. Their property extends within the Absaroka Range which contains five core native BH sheep herds and harbors the largest population of bighorns in the lower 48.

In a cooperative venture, WY-WSF is helping finance (up to \$14,000), the renovation of three guzzlers and develop one spring in a large pasture which is distant

Contributions

This project was made possible by cash contributions from the Water For Wildlife Foundation, the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation, the Wyoming Governor's Big Game License Coalition-Bighorn Sheep Account, and the "Black Hills Mulies" Chapter of the Mule Deer Foundation. In-kind funding was provided by the USFS, SDGFP, and WGFD in the form of workforce for guzzler installation and fuel and equipment for installing the guzzlers.

from occupied BH sheep habitat. The large pasture has an adequate supply of forage but is short on water. If a reliable water supply is established, it will provide Hay Creek with the flexibility of not graze domestic sheep in the upper elevations of their property where the probability of commingling and disease transmission exists. WY-WSF Board members recently visited the site and project implementation will begin in 2017.



GRANT IN AID UPDATES

National WSF Board Intern Update – Sierra Amundson

I recently started my second year at the University of Wyoming, continuing my path as a pre-veterinary major with hopes to become a wildlife pathologist. I am currently taking courses that are challenging and directly relevant to my major and anticipated career path. Throughout the summer I took a couple of courses and continued my work at the Wyoming State Veterinary Lab where I assisted with graduate research on brucellosis.

In addition to school and work, I hunted 16 days in September before I arrowed a great bull moose in Area 38 outside of Laramie on September 29th. My father called the bull in with a series of grunts to a distance of 20 yards. In addition to being my first archery harvest, he'll make the all time B&C and P&Y record books. My father and I enjoyed the time in the mountains together immensely. James Rinehart, WY WSF board member, was a huge help as well, and educated me on moose behavior and habitats, and also found several moose for us to chase high in the Snowy Range. He knows the Snowy Range like no other, and I appreciate his friendship and willingness to help me achieve my goal.

In April I traveled with the national WSF Board of Directors to Las Vegas, Nevada, for our Spring meeting. After a day of meetings, we were able to help the Fraternity of the Desert Bighorn chapter install a guzzler in the Desert National Wildlife Refuge. This process was incredible to witness and the end result was a fully functional guzzler

that wild sheep will be able to use year-round. The guzzler building was filmed and featured on a recent episode of Sheep Shape on the Sportman Channel.

Similar to the Las Vegas experience, I assisted with another guzzler build in the Seminoe Mountain range in south central Wyoming in mid-July. There were many members of the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation that worked to put this guzzler together. It was fun to work with federal and state agency



personnel and volunteers that are all dedicated to bighorn sheep and conservation of their habitat.

In other official sheep business, I attended the Wild Sheep Foundation Chapter and Affiliates Summit IX in Fort Robinson, Nebraska. The conference was held at the historical site and was an impressive, down-to-earth, productive venue for everyone to gather and “talk sheep.” I was privileged enough to carpool with Dr. Tom Besser, professor at Washington State University and WSF Rocky Crate Chair, on the way to-and-from Nebraska. In

the hours of car time we had, we were able to discuss bighorn sheep pneumonia, on-going research, disease management, vet school, and many other topics. It truly was a priceless experience and I am so thankful to the Wild Sheep Foundation for the opportunity.

I enjoyed the WY WSF Convention in June and again helped with youth activities, running auction cards, and attended membership meetings. We have a highly motivated board and membership and this continues to help fuel my

passion for wildlife and disease research.

In October I will travel to the new Wild Sheep Foundation World Headquarters in Bozeman, Montana for the Fall pre-convention Board of Directors meeting. Hopefully we will continue on our upward trajectory of successful national conventions! It is exciting and educational to see what happens behind the scenes to put on the Sheep Show. As always, thanks to the Wyoming

Wild Sheep Foundation for your continued support of my internship and academic career. I look forward to working with all of you to find answers to the complex issues that affect the health of wild sheep.

Sierra Amundson
WY WSF Life Member
National WSF Life Member

Follow me on:
Twitter @WSFboardintern
Instagram @wsfboardintern

GRANT IN AID UPDATES

Wyoming Bighorn Sheep
Genomics Update
Sierra Love Stowell and Holly
Ernest, University of Wyoming

With support from the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation and the Wyoming Department of Game & Fish, the Ernest Lab at the University of Wyoming is hard at work on a comprehensive state-wide genetic assessment of Wyoming's bighorn sheep herds. Our goals are to identify genetic populations in Wyoming so that we can estimate current and historic population size, genetic diversity, and movement. We also aim to provide population assignment information for bighorn sheep found out of their expected ranges (like rams wondering into towns – what population did they come from?). This information will provide a foundation on which wildlife agencies can monitor the genetic health of Wyoming's herds as they cope with introduced diseases and landscape change.

In the past year, we have compiled an archive of nearly 900 samples. These samples include horn cores and slices of muscle from hunter harvests, tissue from animals killed by vehicles, blood and tissue contributed by the Wyoming Game & Fish Wildlife Forensics Laboratory, and blood collected during planned captures for monitoring Wyoming's herds. Samples come from across the state but are especially concentrated in the Absaroka and Devil's Canyon herd units. 79 of our samples collected in 2015 were from harvested animals, making collaboration with hunters one of the most important sources for samples.

What are we doing with all those

samples? We start by breaking down the blood, horn, or tissue and using chemical processes to extract the DNA, the molecule containing the genetic information, from each sample. Once we have DNA from each sample, we can analyze it in three different but complementary ways. The first is by sequencing DNA from the mitochondrion, an organelle in cells involved in metabolism, and looking for differences in the sequence between individuals. Mitochondrial DNA is useful for identifying maternal lineages at older time scales, such as groups that arose during major glaciation cycles. The second is by amplifying repetitive sequences called microsatellites and comparing the number of repetitions between individuals. Microsatellites are useful for looking at recent demographic events and for identifying individuals, families, and populations. The third is by taking a snapshot of variation across the whole genome, all of the DNA sequences in a cell, and comparing SNPs, the positions that vary between individuals. SNPs (Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms) are useful for increasing the precision of our estimates and looking for the genes, regions that contain the code for making proteins, involved in traits of interest, such as disease resistance or migratory behavior.

We're collaborating with researchers around the country to use the best methods to get the most from these precious samples. We've sequenced mitochondrial DNA and determined microsatellite variation for over 100 individuals, and a subset of genome-wide SNP variation for 68 individuals. Preliminary analysis suggests that animals collected in different parts of the state form genetic

clusters; identifying the clusters then will allow us to estimate the other characteristics of interest, such as genetic population size and movement between clusters, both of which are important for understanding disease dynamics.

What's next? We'll continue to extract DNA from our repository of samples, starting with the most recently collected samples but working towards samples that have been collected over the last 10-20 years. With high quality DNA, we'll get sequence and variation data. We'll use that information to identify population structure around Wyoming so that we can understand the extent of genetic diversity. We're also using the extensive translocation database built by members of the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation and by the Western Association of Wildlife Agencies to connect the genetic identity of herds with their translocation history. Many thanks to the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation and Wyoming Department of Game and Fish for facilitating and supporting our work with bighorn sheep. We look forward to our continued relationship with the hunters and conservationists of Wyoming and beyond. Find out more about our work at: <http://www.wildlifegenetichealth.org/projects-research/bighorn-sheep/>

GRANT IN AID UPDATES

Tissue samples from hunters

Blood samples from WSVL

FTA cards from captures

S. Love Stowell

Steve Miller, UWyo

Images: Left examples of sample types used in the Ernest lab, including muscle slices from hunter harvests, blood samples from the Wyoming State Veterinary Lab that come in for disease testing, and dried blood spots on FTA cards from planned captures. Right Ernest Lab members Dr. Sierra Love Stowell, Dr. Erick Gagne, and undergraduate Wildlife Genomics Intern Erin Bentley processing samples for DNA analysis.

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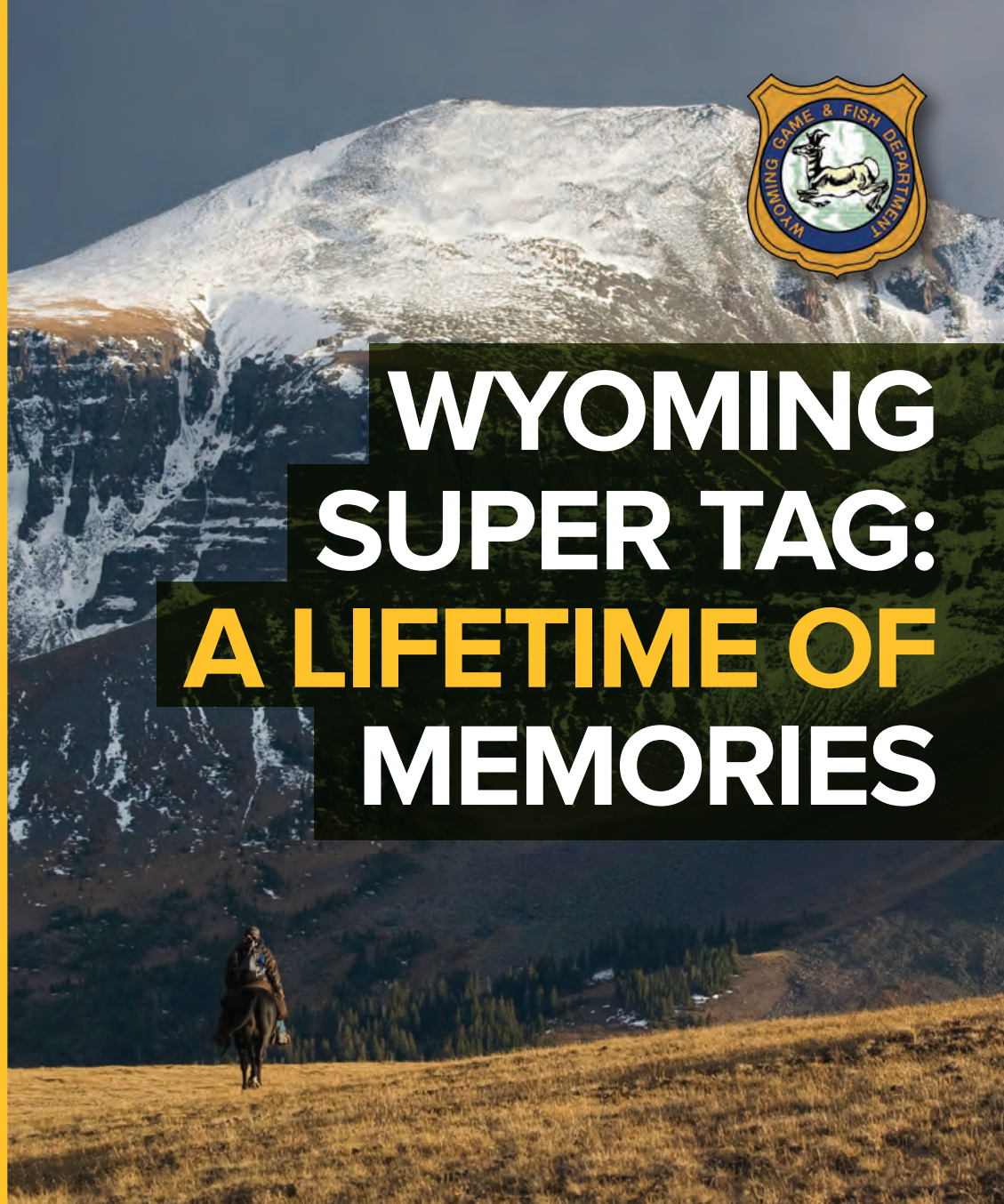
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2016 SUPER TAG
BIGHORN SHEEP WINNER
JEFF CAMPAGNA



WYOMING SUPER TAG: A LIFETIME OF MEMORIES



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New – KUIU gear sponsorship for Trifecta, bighorn
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before hunting. Made possible by the Wyoming Legislature

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Members are encouraged to submit photos for publication
in the RAMPAGE as well as in our website galleries.
Please send your photos via email to: info@wyomingwildsheep.org.

Life Member Tim Sundles



Judy Archie, archery



Life Member Calvin Eisenach
with his 6X6 bull



LM Wade Alexander



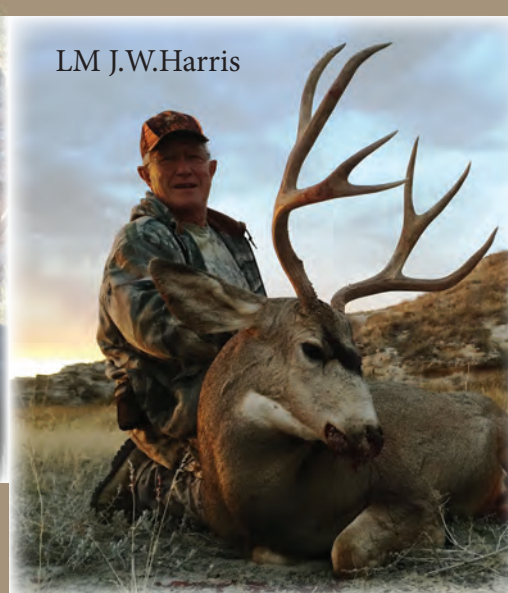
Member's GALLERY



Life Members Leo and Cari Goss harvested this magnificent pair of Stone Sheep with the aid of Gudahoo Outfitters.



LMS Ryan and Sierra Amundson with her 2016 archery moose.



LM J.W.Harris



Life Member Larry Hicks

BLAST FROM THE PAST

DO YOU KNOW THESE GUYS?

(Answer on Page 3)



INVEST IN THE FUTURE OF WHISKEY MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION CAMP TODAY!



The need for camp investment

We need your help! To continue to host top-notch conservation education programs, Whiskey Mountain Conservation Camp is in need of some basic, but significant, renovations. Without investment, the Camp's historic buildings and the learning opportunities hosted here may be lost forever. The Wyoming Game and Fish Commission feels the Camp is its "Crown Jewel" and voted to invest \$2 million toward the \$4.5 million renovation project to begin in summer 2017. The WGFD hopes to preserve and enhance the Camp in a manner that complements the surrounding landscape and ensures it remains an outstanding facility for wildlife and conservation education.

How your investment helps

The Camp sits within the Torrey Valley, outside of Dubois, and the WGFD's Whiskey Basin Wildlife Habitat Management Area, which provides crucial winter habitat for bighorn sheep, elk and mule deer. This unique location has introduced generations of campers to outdoor skills and world-class wildlife. A renovated camp will begin a new era of conservation education and continue to inspire the next generation of conservation leaders.

- Help preserve this one-of-a-kind camp with basic infrastructure needs as well as an updated kitchen, dining area, ADA-compliant guest room and classrooms.
- Grow conservation education efforts across Wyoming. Your help will ensure the Camp can continue to function and will expand the overall summer capacity and ADA-compliant facilities for more people to enjoy.
- Help the bighorn sheep population in the Dubois area by raising awareness and increasing conservation education directed toward these animals.
- Facilitate the use of Commission dollars across Wyoming on WGFD habitat projects such as the Statewide Mule Deer Initiative, Squirrel Creek Wildlife Restoration, South Pass Aspen, and LaBarge Creek Fish Passage.

Please consider giving today and remember every donation makes a difference!

***To donate or for more information,
visit wgfd.wyo.gov/whiskeymtn***



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Meet your Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation Board Members

Zach McDermott

As our membership has grown substantially over the past year, it is possible that some of you haven't met all of the board of directors members. We will introduce ourselves to you over the next few issues in this column. Your board of directors are volunteers working to secure the future of wild sheep in Wyoming. Please don't hesitate to contact us with ideas, concerns, or for any questions you have regarding your chapter by emailing us at: info@wyomingwildsheep.org.

Originally from Omaha, NE, my earliest memories are filled with hunting and fishing with my dad and grandfather. They instilled in me a love, passion and respect for the outdoors and wildlife.

After college, I moved to the Rocky Mountains of Colorado where my passions grew deeper and deeper and so did my desire to help with the conservation of wildlife. Elk and Sheep have always been at the forefront of my efforts knowing the benefits extend to much more than that.

My construction career relocated me to Jackson Hole in 2005. With this move, I started volunteering more with organizations like the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and Pheasants Forever. This involvement really opened my eyes to the conservation efforts and results these type of groups can achieve.

All of this eventually led me to the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation. After witnessing their overwhelming passion for conservation and wildlife, it has inspired me to take my efforts to another level and surround myself

with those who have the same motivation and inspiration as me.

I hope to bring additional knowledge and expertise to an already great organization to help continue the mission of creating a better and long lasting future for Wyoming's wild sheep and wildlife habitat.

At home in Jackson, I have a custom home construction company and I am surrounded by my beautiful fiancée Gina and our two girls, Sofia and Giuliana. We love spending our time with our mules, Tammy and Salty and of course the king of our household, Boone, our English Pointer.



Meet your Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation Board Members

Greg Pope

After attending several national and Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation banquets I became enthused about helping out more directly with putting and keeping sheep on the mountain. At the urging of current Wyoming WSF president Jerry Galles and several other members I decided to run for the board of directors this spring so

I could offer an investment of my time in addition to my monetary assistance for the future of wild sheep. A Wyoming resident since 1952 and a graduate in engineering from the University of Wyoming, I have owned a general construction firm in Casper for over 30 years. I also have a small

farm and ranch operation outside of Casper, so I can appreciate our resources from a sportsman's as well as a landowner's perspective.

Although I have been able to hunt every species available in the state with rifle and archery gear, my passion since growing up reading Jack O'Conner has been wild sheep. As with most of us, it took forever to draw my first tag. But, after taking that first small ram, sheep hunting became an obsession and seven rams later I still want to keep chasing them as long as I can scramble up the rock piles.

It takes a lot of year round effort and funds from dedicated

people like the members of the Wyoming and national Wild Sheep Foundations to keep these magnificent critters on the mountains.

I love sheep and sheep hunting and as a new Board member I want to do everything I can to involve youth now and enable future generations to enjoy the same opportunities I had.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve the membership and am open to your ideas and input.

Greg Pope with daughter, Jenae





2016 Bighorn Bash

Saturday, November 5th

Dear Friend of the Bighorn Sheep Center,

Our Annual Bighorn Bash is our single largest fundraiser of the year, and we depend on supporters such as yourself to make the Center successful. Your donation helps keep the doors open, our education programs running, assisting herd research and necessary updates to our exhibits. **Will you help support the Center through a tax-deductible donation of merchandise, service or a check for the 2016 Bighorn Bash?**

We have had one of our best visitation years ever in 2016 with over 5,000 visitors since January! Here are just a few other highlights of the recent activities and programs at the National Bighorn Sheep Center:



We hired our first-ever Education Assistant, Karen Sullivan, to help expand and improve the Bighorn Sheep Center's Education Program including new classroom and field learning opportunities for youth;



Over 20 public events including presentations, outings with the Dubois Museum and volunteer field opportunities;



Partnering with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department as the fiscal sponsor for the Whiskey Mountain Conservation Camp renovation project;



Bighorn sheep research and habitat data collection with our partners at Wyoming Game and Fish Department, U.S. Forest Service and others including the capture and collaring of bighorns in the Dubois area this past spring.

We need your help now more than ever so that we can continue to improve our Education Program and better support wild sheep in Wyoming and beyond. While there are many challenges facing bighorns, including disease and habitat loss, your support makes all the difference in our ability to tell this important story. Please donate today!

We will publicize donors, products and sponsors, and we are looking to gather all donations (checks, gift certificates, or material goods) **as soon as possible**. Feel free to drop your donation off at the Center or contact us to arrange a pickup.

On behalf of bighorn sheep, a hearty and heartfelt Thank You for your support.

Sincerely,

Sara Domek
Executive Director

You can reach the Center at: info@bighorn.org or 307-455-3429

Note: The National Bighorn Sheep Interpretive Association in accordance with IRS regulations verifies that you have received no goods or services of substantial value in consideration of your gift. We are a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and our Tax ID number is 83-0301605.

National Bighorn Sheep Interpretive Center

BIG FOUR RAFFLE

Drawing November 5, 2016 at the Bighorn Bash!



This year's Big Four prizes are:

- Two Night All-Inclusive Stay for Two Adults during the week of September 3-8, 2017 at the CM Ranch in Dubois
- "Snow Shower" Framed 12" x 20" Original Painting of Whiskey Mountain Bighorns, by Laney Hicks of Sunnybank Studio
- Battle-Hardened Moose Antler with Carved Eagle by Monte Baker of the Horse Creek Gallery
- Handcrafted Leather Cuff Bracelet with Repurposed Sterling Silver and Turquoise Bolo Tie Pawn Piece with set of Sterling Silver Turquoise Earrings by Jill Judd of Roca Jewelry Designs



\$10 per ticket or \$50 for six tickets

Three ways to get your tickets:

1. On your registration/donation form, please indicate the number of tickets and your prize preference with 1, 2, 3 and 4 and return your completed form and payment to us by mail (PO Box 1435, Dubois, WY 82513) or email (info@bighorn.org). Your tickets will be put in the mix for all four drawings.
2. Go online to our website (www.bighorn.org) and fill in the registration/donation form with your name and ticket details. You can pay for your Big Four tickets and make dinner reservations directly online.
3. Call us at 307-455-3429 or email info@bighorn.org, or visit the Center at 10 Bighorn Lane in Dubois, WY (we are open Monday-Saturday from 10am-4pm), and we can help you purchase tickets.

You need not be present to win! We will ship to the winners.

Every Ticket Makes A Difference! Thank You for your Support!

The National Bighorn Sheep Interpretive Association

Cordially invites you to the Twenty-Third Annual Fundraiser & Dinner

To benefit the conservation education programs at the National Bighorn Sheep Center in Dubois, WY

Great Food, Exciting Auctions and Raffles, Fun Games! **\$40 for singles or \$70 for couples**
Saturday, November 5th, 2016 • Doors Open at 5:30pm • Headwaters Art & Conference Center

Fabulous Meal Choices by Shannon Chandler of the Nostalgia Bistro:

Prime Rib with Au Jus & Creamy Horseradish Sauce or Stuffed Chicken Breast A La King or Vegetarian Lasagna

Served with:

**Mixed Green & Spinach Salad with Cranberries & Candied Almonds • Creamy Whipped Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
• Roasted Rainbow Carrots & Beets • Layered White Chocolate & Milk Chocolate Mousse Cake**

We often sell-out for this event, so be sure to reserve your tickets early!

For more information, call 307-455-3429. Register ONLINE at our website at www.bighorn.org.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

of Each Entrée: PRIME RIB: _____ CHICKEN A LA KING: _____ VEGETARIAN LASAGNA: _____

Big Four Raffle Tickets (\$10 per ticket or \$50 for six tickets): Please indicate your preference for the four options (1-4). Your tickets will be put in the mix for all four drawings.

Total # Tickets: _____

- Two Night All-Inclusive Stay for Two Adults during the week of September 3-8, 2017 at the CM Ranch in Dubois **Preference (1-4):** _____
- "Snow Shower" Framed 12"x20" Original Painting of Whiskey Mountain Bighorns, by Laney Hicks of Sunnybank Studio **Preference (1-4):** _____
- Battle-Hardened Moose Antler with Carved Eagle by Monte Baker of Horse Creek Gallery **Preference (1-4):** _____
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Totals: Dinner Tickets:	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> I have completed & enclosed the dinner reservation & donation form.
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AREA 12 ARCHERY HUNT

BY GARY LAYA

Finally, the 35 year wait was over. I had to check the computer three times to make sure I was the proud recipient of a Wyoming sheep tag!

The scouting began immediately; crawling over snow drifts to get to the area. I made a pledge to myself to scout over the area once a week and living only 75 miles from the sheep area made it possible.

This area was old stomping ground for me back in the 80's, so old memories came back to me quickly.

My goal was to find the biggest ram in the area and bow hunt him until the end.

Little did I know this dream would come true after only 10 days of hunting.



I shot my ram with an early 80's 60# Hoyt compound bow. The ram green scores 181 plus change.

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“AN OLD UGLY”

BY DAN HINZ

Since I had a less than 1% chance to draw a sheep tag in Wyoming or Nevada and I used my nonresident deer points in Nevada and Colorado the last couple years I had a big hole in my fall hunting schedule. So what to do. Well I like to hunt and like to shoot and you can do that in Africa. I booked a buffalo hunt in South Africa for August of 2016 in the Limpopo Province with Ernest Dyason of Spear Safaris.

The hunting area consist of almost 30,000 acres with one end butting up against Kruger National Park. The Limpopo Province is going thru the worst drought in 30 years, thus most of the animals are at or close to the waterholes scattered on the hunting area.

The first two days we mainly checked waterholes to look for an old, solid boss ugly bull. Several years ago I killed a big, wide, solid boss with sharp points, a pretty bull. This time I wanted an old ugly one. The old solid bulls we saw were all around the waterholes mixed in with young, soft boss bulls and cows. We were looking for several old bulls or tracks of big

bulls off by themselves since they are easier to sort thru than bulls in herds with cows and young bulls. Due to the drought we only found the old bulls with cows and young bulls.

The third day we found a herd close to a waterhole with an old bull and decided to try to get on them. We tracked the herd to within 40yards in some dense brush and trees, found the bull but was covered up by cows and finally bumped them when trying to get into position for a shot. Once they are bumped they get extremely alert. We chased, tracked, followed for a couple hours and finally broke off to let them settle down.

Found the same herd again after lunch. This time we came in down wind, set up on a 2 track, sent the trackers around to come in up wind and let their scent push the buffalo towards us. Worked great but the old bull was covered by cows so again, so no shot. They settled down just inside the brush line slowly feeding parallel with the 2 track road. We followed along the 2 track. I looked ahead and saw the road bend to left and if buffalo kept going would cross the road. We moved up, so

could see around the bend, several buffalo started across, then Ernest said the shooter bull was next. When he cleared the brush and other buffalo I took about a 60yd. shot off the shooting sticks. Saw the bull make a little hop indicating a solid lung shot and also saw the inside leg fly up indication of a busted shoulder. Bull did a 180 and back into the brush. We moved up, saw several young bulls standing over our downed bull. We moved up a little, the young bulls ran off and we had our bull.

I had several more days to hunt and managed to take a real nice kudu, a zebra and Wildebeest. One day went by the Kruger fence and found were elephants had pushed the fence over and coming into the hunting block. Then 200 yds down the fence line they pushed the fence over the other way to return back into Kruger. They are coming into the hunting block because there is more food. The Kruger side is nothing but pushed over trees and dead brush.

Overall another great trip to Africa.



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MY AREA 19 RAM

BY LUKE MICHELENA

Day 18, 60 miles on our hiking boots and mother nature kicking us in the belly a few times:

We walked single file, in silence, my dad (Greg), myself, and Brenda (stepmom), headed up to the spotting rock. Cole (hunting buddy) had hiked to a different location to get a different angle on the canyon's west side. We all had found our spots from the day before and began glassing. The Wyoming wind was there to greet us. After glassing for a little while I spotted 14 rams. I quietly made it back to my dad to tell him. There were 2 definite shooters in the group. The big rams started to bed down, so now we wait. Cole made it back to our location just in time to take a quick look as they went the wrong way.

Now the sun was warming everything, including us. We started looking for a place to take a little

nap. I was about to give in to my eyelids but decided to take one last look around. I had barely put my binoculars up when I spotted 2 rams, just 200 yards away. I inched back to get my dad again. After a few minutes of quickly putting stuff back in backpacks and Brenda cautiously waking Cole up so he didn't fall the 8 feet off the rock, we had our game faces back on.

These rams were about 200 yards out in front of us grazing into a little bit of downed timber and then bedded down. We studied them for a little while and I decided I was going to pass. I put the crosshairs on him and dry fired a few times so when the real deal came maybe I wouldn't be as nervous. We sat there talking about it and the more we talked about people who didn't fill tags, how the weather might change and how it was going to be the last time all were going to be able to hunt together this season. I decided to change my mind and try and harvest

this ram. I barely got the words out, "I'm gonna take him" and a big gust of wind spooked the 2 rams. I would have to put a few blank sentences in the story to censor my thoughts right then.

The rams ran about 30 yards and stood nervously. I asked if everyone was ready and as soon as he turned broadside I took the shot that I had waited my whole life for. I couldn't believe that with all the things that had happened on this hunt I finally had my ram. After getting him set up and ready for pictures Cole found the little bottle of celebratory whiskey that he had packed for almost 75 miles.

I would like to give a huge thanks to my dad for giving us the bighorn sheep bug. A big thank you to Brenda for helping and putting up with our hunt crazed family. Thank you to Cole for walking aimless around the mountains during the season. I would also like to thank Steve, Brian and Kim for your help, without you guys this lifetime memory wouldn't of happened and thank you Freddie Goetz for watching my dog.



CAVE DWELLERS

BY STEVE BROCK

After waiting 17 years for a resident Wyoming sheep tag I finally drew a license for Unit 3. I began doing the final preparations for this sheep hunt for at least three weeks prior to my scheduled hunt of September 11 - 20. My outfitter, Josh Martoglio, of Shoshone Lodge Outfitters, told me we might go in a few days early if he filled his other previous hunts. I live just west of Cody in the Wapiti Valley, so this plan would work very well as we planned to hunt up the North Fork of the Shoshone River. The anticipation of the hunt and the unknown of when I might go was killing me. I had been following Josh's hunter success on his Face Book page, and I knew I would be going early. I had packed and repacked, organized and reorganized for a week. I had practiced with my .270 Winchester Short Mag for months and felt very confident up to 600 yards.

Then on September 6 Josh called and asked if I could go on September 8 through the 11th. I was ready! He also explained that his brother Jordan, an excellent guide, and a visiting friend who guides desert sheep hunts in Baha Mexico, Francisco Canett, of Hermanos Canett Outfitting, would also be going along. Wow! I now have three outstanding guides and two extra set of eyes I was not planning on for spotting. He also explained

that Jordan had spotted a very respectable ram a few days before but was unsuccessful in hunting him and we were going in on a short hunt to look this ram over.

The first morning we met at the trail head and packed up five pack horses and saddled four riding horses. The five hour ride to camp was a wonderful early September day with

which is typical of this part of the Absaroka Wilderness with volcanic cliffs and mixed patches of alpine grasses. We only spotted one small ram, two ewes and one black bear. Jordan and Francisco rode out the opposite direction and overlooked some of the most rugged terrain in the Absarokas where he had seen the bigger ram a few days prior. They did spot the ram we were looking for, but he came off of the cliffs only long enough to get to a small creek for water and then returned to the cliffs. He also spotted about eight other smaller rams.

That evening the weather changed with some light rain and snow. The next morning was overcast with misting snow. We rode to Josh's overlook and were able to spot nine smaller rams scattered throughout the basin in some of the most rugged cliffs I remember seeing. We could not locate the larger ram. Scattered snow flurries prevented us from seeing across the basin for much of the morning. As we laid behind a rock ledge out of the weather, Jordan explained to

me where he had spotted various rams during the previous hunt. Many of these rams, including the one we were looking for had spent much of their days in small shallow caves, often high on these vertical cliffs. He showed me one cave that



short sleeve shirt temperatures. We rode to a small secluded meadow in the timber just below timberline, set up a spike camp and prepared to go out for an evening of spotting. Josh and I took a short ride to a spot we could overlook a large basin

he and his hunter had spotted a nice ram and were able to stalk within 50 yards to shoot. It was hard for me to believe that these rams were spending so much time in these small caves. About noon Josh took his spotting scope and moved to another overlook and spotted the ram laying behind a large rock spire. The hunt was on!

It took about 2 hours to stalk within about 500 yards of where this ram was bedded on near

vertical cliffs. The distance after compensating for the steep uphill incline was 405 yards. At the shot the ram immediately cart wheeled several times down the cliff about 30 yards and fortunately stopped in a gully. Otherwise he might have dropped another 1000 feet. We were all concerned that his cape and horns would be destroyed. After the shot I have never seen three guys so excited!

Josh lay on the grass and laughed “now you know why I am addicted to this”. It is wonderful to have a guide that you know loves this kind of hunt as much as I do!

It took about 1 ½ hours to traverse these steep volcanic slopes with loose baseball and golf ball shaped rocks to get to the ram. His horns were scratched but not broken and the hide was in good shape except for a couple of minor cuts. I really appreciate the time Jordan and Francisco took

to take good photos of this ram. Jordan said the pictures are the only trophy he gets from these hunts. I bet we took 75 photos before preparing the ram for the pack out.

Josh carried the two front quarters, Francisco carried two front shoulders and boned meat and I started out with the head and cape. We traversed some of the worse steep, slippery slopes I could imagine with packs that put us totally off balance. We had a descent of about 1200 feet to where Jordan was waiting with the horses. About half way down my legs turned to mush on the ball bearing like slopes. Josh asked Francisco to carry the head and cape the rest of the way. They both had close to 100 pound packs!

This is one of the most memorable hunts I have taken in 45 years of hunting. The companionship and their youthful 30 something years pushed me into terrain I would have not attempted to hunt sheep on my own. Like I am sure all other successful sheep hunters feel, I wish I could do this more often.



LAST SHEEP HUNT?

BY GREG POPE

The Stone's sheep in the crosshairs was not huge but he was a classic flared type ram, and I had to decide what to do and decide fast because he was not waiting around! Serious business issues back at home were weighing heavily, and this, my last sheep

I grew up reading about Jack O'Connor's hunts in the high and wild places of North America and eagerly anticipated the day I could finally experience it personally. The anticipation became obsession once I had my first opportunity to hunt sheep and experience the

exhilaration of seeing forever from the highest points, breathing the pure thin mountain air, glassing for hours and trying to grow horns on the same rocks, and then finally spotting sheep moving at ease across the impossible terrain.

Even though that first hunt was unsuccessful, sheep hunting became a 30 year addiction that is impossible for anyone except another sheep hunter to understand. But you too soon grow old as they say and the mountains start getting steeper. I was feeling every bit as old as my 65 year old and overweight desk-job body deserved to feel as I attended the Sheep Show in Reno last January. But, the doldrums could not last long in that place! Wandering in the same building as thousands of sportsmen and hundreds of outfitters that share a common passion is like being a kid in a huge candy store. My longing for the sheep hunting experience was stoked anew and any age issues forgotten for the moment. Long story short, after several days of window shopping I met a young outfitter, developed an instant trust, and talked myself into doing one last sheep hunt before I folded my tent.

A Stone sheep hunt into northern British Columbia! The classic fly in and horseback experience for the most magnificent of the North American sheep in the most beautiful mountains on the planet. I was on top of the world until reality soon reared its head. "You are totally insane and too out of shape and too old for this," said the inner voice (or was it the outer voice of my wife?). But, being a true sheep addict, I ignored both voices.

Seven months later and 23 pounds lighter I was on the plane to Whitehorse, Yukon Territory. The town name conjures up images of adventures! Old time trappers, prospectors, mushers, and modern day sheep hunters! Early the next morning the Cessna 206 bounced me over breathtaking mountains, valleys, lakes, and rivers on the way into base camp back in BC.

I was met at the dock by my guide Charley, the outfitter, staff, and the



previous hunter who had taken a super 39" ram the day before. Stories were told, friendships formed, and the anticipation of the adventure grew. The pain of a 6 hour ride to spike camp the next day disappeared when we spotted our first ram band 20 minutes from camp. One of the four rams was worth another look and after we tied horses we made the first climb up several thousand feet of boulders and shin-tangle to sneak a peek. Unfortunately upon closer investigation the ram was not the minimum 8 years old that the outfitter wanted, even though he was full curl.

The next several days were all the same. Up at 5:00, great breakfast, several hours in the saddle, climbing to glassing peaks, and hours of scouring the mountains until dark. Grey rocks and Stone sheep tend to blend into invisibility and one can be convinced there are no sheep on the mountain until finally one stands and their bright white markings make them easily seen where there was nothing before. We observed many mountain goats

and over a dozen stone rams, but nothing that was worth a stalk. It was exhilarating to lie in the rocks and absorb it all. Miles of tangled mountains and streams, blueberries to graze upon like a grizzly, eagles in a deep blue sky, great hunting stories from companions, our ponies tied up like little ants

down below, breathtaking drop offs below our feet, and no sights or sounds of civilization. At the top of the world, feeling oh so close to our Creator, so vibrant and alive with the anticipation of that special ram around somewhere.

A sheep hunt is so much more than just taking an animal.

The fourth day we were in and out of rain gear as the lurking squalls

finally came through from the north. Side-hilling several miles around yet another mountain we finally reached a basin where the guides had seen a good, black bodied ram on the last hunt. Nobody was home as we glassed over the edge, so I stayed to keep glassing while the guides split up to check some fingers a little further out. An hour later Charley came running back. He had spotted the ram and two others bedded down a half mile around the mountain. We hustled across chutes, boulder fields, loose scree, and tiny outcrops on cliff bands that made me pucker up and try not to look down the 100's of feet of exposure. We crept silently to the lip of the spot where we were sure the rams were bedded below. No rams! Nor were they under the next ledge. Disappointment set in, but then, looking back where we had just been, we spotted them scrambling up a 45 degree black rock boulder field. The packs came off quickly and became a gun rest.

The range and angle were beyond my comfortable limits, but Charley convinced me that if I wanted this ram I should try the shot or be ready to chase him all over the mountain again. This was to be my last sheep hunt, so "let's go for it," I thought and squeezed off the shot. "He's hit, shoot again". With the adrenaline surge it was difficult to steady for another shot. I waited until the ram finally turned and offered another shot – even further beyond my comfort range. Just as I squeezed the trigger I heard "No, he's not hit..... but he is now, great shot!" After a follow up shot from a

much closer range the ram was ours.

The mountain goats disguised as my guides made it to the ram much quicker than I was able to pick my way up through the steep and dangerously loose boulders. As I got closer I heard "I can't believe it. 14 years old! This is the oldest ram I have ever taken."

As I topped out and saw the ram laying there I teared up a bit. The climb up to a wild sheep that you just have taken is a conflicting experience. At once happy and sad, it is an emotional time especially if it is your last sheep hunt. After silent thanks to the Good Lord who made these mountains and the critters we pursue, a thank you to the sheep, and congratulations all around, many photos were taken.

As we commenced the task of skinning and deboning, the sky opened up and it poured for the next several hours. Clinging onto the side of a steep boulder field made even more treacherous with the saturated lichens and moss, we

worked on the ram and tried to keep both him and ourselves from tumbling down the mountain - a task that seems to be a common part of the sheep hunting experience. Slipping, sliding, falling down the treacherous boulder field with loaded packs we finally made it to the bottom.

The horses were a welcome sight and camp was even more welcome as we got there at dark thirty. Sleep came easily with a full belly of sheep loin and happy dreams of a beautiful ram. Several days later as the float plane touched down, I gazed across the crystal clear lake and back up into the high cliffs and looked at the horns hanging on the rail. I realized that even though I am old and slow I had thoroughly enjoyed another fantastic sheep hunt and had taken my seventh ram.

The sheep fever was still burning and I thought, "Maybe this is not my last sheep hunt after all. Just the last one before the next one".





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