



Jamie Daley
Seminole Mtns.
Page 33

Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation

The **RAMPAGE**

Fall 2019



SUB-MOA



CERAKOTE



CARBON FIBER STOCK



SPIRAL FLUTED BOLT



54° BOLT



TITANIUM ACTION



TRIGGERTECH

AN UNACHIEVED COMBINATION... UNTIL NOW

LIGHTEST

4 lbs 15oz.

FASTEST

1500 foot lbs energy at 500 yards

THE BACKCOUNTRY SERIES IMPLEMENTS NEW TECHNOLOGIES TO LEAD THE INDUSTRY IN LIGHTWEIGHT RIFLES HARNESSING MAGNUM PERFORMANCE. NOW AVAILABLE IN WEATHERBY'S NEWEST CARTRIDGE
6.5 WBV RPM



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Fall 2019

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Steve Kilpatrick-Executive
Director

Contact us at:

info@wyomingwildsheep.org
Or by phone: (307)213-0998

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
wyomingwildsheep.org

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45 "Hunting With Lost Creek Outfitters"
by Jeff Olson
51 "Luck of the Draw" by Pat Pace
57 "From Swamps and Gators to Mountains
and Bighorns" by Karen Sullivan
59 "Water For Wildlife" by Vickie Hutchinson
65 "When Was The Last Time You Did
Something For The First Time"
by Tammy Scott

Address Changes

Become a member to receive your own copy of the RamPage. Dues are \$25 per year or \$500 for a Life Membership. Subscribe at: <https://www.wyomingwildsheep.org/store.aspx>

Please send address changes to: info@wyomingwildsheep.org or by phone at (307) 213-0998

Advertising Rates

Full-Page \$250
1/2-Page \$150
1/4-Page \$70
1/8-Page \$50

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 format by 09/25 & 3/5!!

2019-2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec 6-7, 2019
Winter Meeting
Sheridan, WY

January 16-18, 2020
WSF Banquet/Convention
Reno, NV

June 5-6, 2020
Annual Convention
Casper, WY

June 25-26, 2020
Wyoming Big Horn Sheep Summit
Burgess Junction, WY

June 26-27, 2020
WSF Chapter & Affiliates Summit
Lewiston, ID

Membership Renewal

Your renewal date is listed on your poly bag's mailing label right above your name. If your membership is expired, or will expire before the next issue, renew today at:

<https://www.wyomingwildsheep.org/store.aspx>.

Correction: In the Spring issue, we misspelled LM #283, Larry Thoney's name in his story's title on page 55. We are sorry Larry!

Wyoming WSF would like to thank, and recognize, Life Members who have signed up since the Spring 2019 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:

<https://www.wyomingwildsheep.org/lifemembers.asp>

If you would be interested in signing up or upgrading to Life Member status with WY-WSF, please visit our store or membership pages on the website. A \$500 payment or recurring payments of your choice, 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!!

Dear Member; To save printing costs we send one copy per address. If you would like to receive multiple copies, please contact Dean DiJenno at (307) 213-0998 or info@wyomingwildsheep.org

Blast from the Past - Diane DiJenno with her Dall's Sheep taken on the Kuskokwim River in Alaska in 1995. She backpacked for 12 days to find this trophy.

563	Zane Foust
564	Scot Withers
565	Chris Fayville
566	Henry Stueckler
567	Ricky Wilcox
568	Danyelle Pace
569	Vince Bloom
570	Karen Sullivan
571	Ethan Trapp
572	Kevin Wells
573	Martin Hicks
574	Mike Maestri
575	Don Perrien
576	Mick Mickelsen
577	Delaney Eisenach
578	Frank Maestri III
579	Archer Seitz
580	Bridger Haigler
581	Jax Taylor
582	Jhett Taylor
583	Codyak Mason Lee Wyatt
584	Brian Brunette
585	Tom Burman

“THE RON BALL MEMORIAL AWARD”

THE WYOMING WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION’S HIGHEST HONOR



By Kevin Hurley, LM #20
Vice President of Conservation
and Operations
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 17 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

2017 Freddie Goetz
2018 Ryan Amundson
2019 Joni Miller

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!



WHERE DOES YOUR MONEY GO?

BY STEVE KILPATRICK

Ok, so you folks not only take valuable time out of your lives to attend the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation's annual banquet, but you also dig deep into your pockets to "put your money where your mouth is".

You no doubt love Wyoming's outdoors and those KIDS and WILD SHEEP on the mountain. Let's learn a little about how you/we invest your hard earned \$\$s in the wild sheep resource.

The WY-WSF accepts Grant In Aid (GIA) proposals for funding twice a year; deadlines are May 1 and November 1. The proposals are reviewed by the 11 Board members and funding recommendations are made. Their funding recommendations are then presented to the general membership at the membership meetings the first week in June and December. Thus, YOU have the final say, if you attend the two annual membership meetings.

Since 1988, YOU have spent approximately \$1.4 in GIA revenue on wild sheep conservation. The average annual GIA expenditure from 2015-2018 was \$138,430/yr. All projects can be reviewed before and after funding decisions are made on our web site at <https://www.wyomingwildsheep.org/grants.asp>

A second important source of wild sheep conservation funding comes from the Wyoming Governor's Big Game License Coalition (WGBGLC). The concept of the WGBGLC was presented to Governor Freudenthal by Kevin Hurley and other WGFD staff. Governor Freudenthal initially implemented the WGBGLC in 2003 and is has continued through governorships via an annual agreement with the sitting Governor. In short, the Governor receives 25 complimentary licenses via state statute. Five

of them are wild sheep tags which are sold across the US and bringing \$65K - \$110K each. A committee of five: three WY-WSF Board members and two WGFD wild sheep biologists, determine where the Gov tags are sold, and project proposal funding levels. Seventy percent (70%) of the revenue is directed to Wyoming's bighorns. The seller keeps 10% and the rest is divided among other wildlife needs.

The average WGBGLC revenue generated for Wy bighorns from 2015-2019 was \$279K/yr. Since 2003, the WGBGLC has generated approximately \$2.7M for wild sheep conservation. So, approximately \$420K is available annually for bighorn conservation via the above two sources. But, where does it go?

I looked at the last three years to see what you and the Board has approved. The projects are spread across the gamut of wild sheep conservation needs – translocations; guzzler developments; a plethora of disease issues; allotment buyouts; outreach and education; research on genetics; nutrition and disease; prescribed burns; habitat renovation; lots of monitoring for population status; radio collaring; forage quantity/quality; mtn. goat impacts to bighorns; cheatgrass control; etc. Again, look at the web site above for project details.

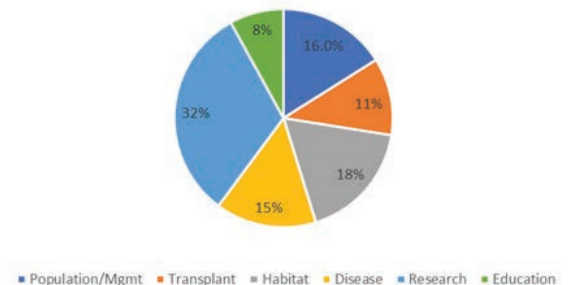
Over the past three years, funding has been evenly distributed among the different aspects important for current and future bighorn management. The pie chart below illustrates how you, the Wy-WSF Board Members and WGFD Wildlife biologists have divided the \$1,6M pie over the past three Years. The Research piece is larger due to the extensive research project ongoing with the Whiskey Basin bighorns, which

have been in decline since 1991. Lots of other much-needed disease related research is ongoing.

Personally, I would like to see a little more cash spent on outreach and education (we need KIDS on the mtn. as well), but that might come if we can get some questions answered with the research end.

Overall, it is obvious that wild sheep management is complex and expensive. Be aware, your funds are critical since the WGFD's annual expenditure for bighorn management is around \$2.5M/yr and license revenue brings in only \$180K-200K/yr. Yes, WAY in the **RED**. Without YOU, there would be a lot fewer wild sheep and kids on the mountain. THANK YOU!

WY-WSF & WGBGLC Expenditures 2016-Spring 2019



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY KURT EISENACH

As I sit in my travel trailer on the side of the Alaskan Highway, waiting for a tow truck, counting my blessings would not be the first thing that comes to mind. But that is exactly one of the ways I have been passing the time while I wait. Having the privilege to work with such a great group of board members and an energetic, involved membership is a privilege. Thank you all for your support and input in the running of this great organization.

2019 has been a good year for WY WSF. We had a successful June banquet and have seen progress on several of the projects we are funding. A request from you, the membership, to set policy for the Life Member Fund assets has been addressed. Please check out our recommendations and cast your vote this December.

The annual winter meeting is being held in Sheridan with the banquet at the beautiful Powder Horn golf course clubhouse. Plan on attending this important event and enjoy the scheduled tours of the new Weatherby firearms factory and museum. Registration details are available on our website.

Several board and regular members had a great meeting with the WY G&F, Forest Service, and BLM land managers at Burgess Junction in late June. If you are ever free to attend this meeting, it is a wonderful look into the complexities of managing this resource. We discussed the current reduction in core herd numbers and what we might do to support these herds. A long-term statewide herd

objective document is in the works as a result of this meeting. Look for more on this in the future.

We will be better able to direct funding to the needed projects if we all know where we are and where we are trying to go.

We have a serious issue developing on the edge of hunt area 5. There are now 3,000 domestic sheep grazing private and public land in close proximity to occupied bighorn habitat. We have met with the ranch manager, G&F, and BLM working to find solutions to this very serious problem. A disease outbreak from the increased risk of contact could imperil most of the core of Wyoming's bighorn sheep treasure. This is a threat that cannot be ignored, and we are looking at what options we have for protecting the wild sheep.

WY WSF will again have a booth in Reno during the sheep show. If you are planning to attend the Reno show, we could use some help covering a few shifts at the booth during the event. Please contact me, (307-673-4928), or Dean DiJenno, (307-213-0998), for details.

We have begun another great raffle to win a sheep hunt, and details are available on the web page. Griz and Ginger Turner have partnered with us in this effort to raise funds for wild sheep. This is the third year in a row they have made a major donation to our fundraising efforts. Please let them know how much we appreciate their efforts and commitment to Wyoming's wild sheep resource. They can be reached at hunts@ravensthroat.com Send them an email and thank them!

In closing, let me urge you to get out in Wyoming's wonderful outdoors. Take a kid or a first-time hunter-fisherman out and show them what a true conservationist does. Join us in Sheridan, the first weekend in December, (Dec. 6-7), to share a few stories, raise a few \$'s, and plan for the future.

GOOD HUNTING; KURT





Conservation Fund Update

BY SCOTT BUTLER

Wow, what a six months we have had since my last report in the Spring RamPage!

Rusty and Rosemary Gooch set a challenge to match donated funds generated for the Conservation Fund of \$25,000 by the end of the banquet June 1, 2019. This challenge was met within a few minutes at our banquet by a total of 26 individual donor. AMAZING!

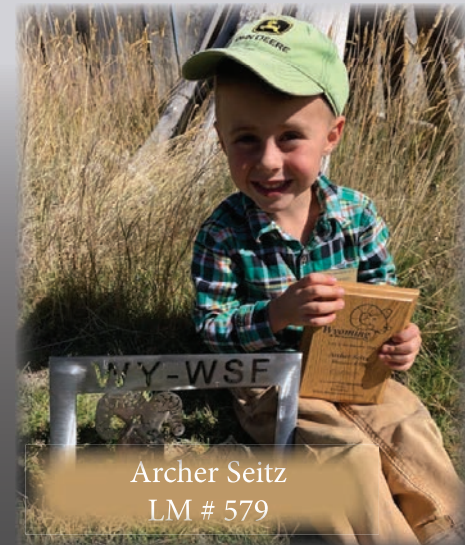
Other major donors to the fund at the banquet included: Wade Alexander, Leo Goss, Lynn Stewart, Rocky Yardas and Anthony Wyatt.

We have met our goal of \$250,000 and continue to grow the corpus. Two youth attendees, Frank Maestri III and Archer Seitz were drawn to receive WY WSF Life Memberships paid for by the Conservation Fund. Congratulations to them and I hope they can keep attending our events and stay involved!

The fund also paid to send two children to Camp Bighorn and to assist the National Bighorn Sheep Center with funding the camp.

Again, thank you to Rusty and Rosemary Gooch for the boosting properties that a challenge gives to the Fund.

Conservation Fund Total = \$284,893
Change in Value = \$25,857
GIAs funded = \$13,500
Life Memberships Awarded = 6



Archer Seitz
LM # 579

KEEPING KIDS AND WILD SHEEP ON THE MOUNTAIN!

The Gooch's Continue to Define "Passion and Charity"

by Steve Kilpatrick

Most of us live in Wyoming because we are passionate about its beauty and mesmerizing vastness, from the gray seas of sagebrush landscapes to picturesque multicolored ragged topped mountains. Moreover, we cherish the majestic wildlife which share these rich landscapes, their homes, with us. Yes, we are passionate to the point of being obsessed with our landscapes and wildlife. But, how do we "give back" to this incredible resource?

Well, Rusty and Rosemary Gooch, two of the more passionate folks I know, have figured it out. They have worked hard, saved their pennies and have taken the opportunity to combine charity with passion. They are both passionate about Wyoming's iconic bighorn sheep. They recognized the best avenue for contributing to bighorns is through the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation.

Thus, they became long-time life members and have made annual contributions over the years.

Fast forward to 2017, when Gooches decided to "up the ante" a tad. They donated a chunk of **valuable** real estate in Patagonia, Arizona to the WY-WSF. Yes, donated real estate, valued at \$75,000 to their passion – bighorns!! As Rusty aptly puts it, "Some of the best times of my life have been spent sitting with a good pair of binoculars and glassing a high cirque for Big Horn Sheep. It doesn't get much better than that in the Wind River Range - - - my back yard! Donating land to the WY-WSF is our way of being good stewards of the land and of wild sheep, in addition to saying "thank you for great times and memories." A novel and amazing display of passion and charity.....and inspiration to all.

But, wait, they were not done. During the June 2019 WY-WSF annual fundraiser in downtown Casper, they offered up a challenge to other passionate wild sheep folks. They put \$20,000 on the table and challenged us to match it! Match it we did, in about 5 minutes. So, they put another \$5,000 and the table and dared us to match that. It was immediately matched and more. In the end, \$56,100 was raised for wild sheep in less than 10 minutes that night. Passion and charity defined.

Rusty and Rosemary not only define passion and charity, their innovative ways of combining the two make them leaders in this arena. They provide the means, inspiration and encouragement for us to give back to those things we cherish and value. I am more than humbled by their actions and leadership.



2019 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 1, 2019 banquet in Casper.

We thank them for their support, and invite others who might be interested in a full curl table for our 2020 fundraising banquet to please contact President Kurt Eisenach, 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 2020

.....



Eggington's



My Raven's Throat Dalls Sheep Hunt

By 2018 Raffle Winner, Sal Piazza

It was June 21, 2018 and I was sitting in a meeting when my phone vibrated. I looked at the phone and the caller ID said Cody Wyoming. I thought "who could this be?" I always apply for tags in Wyoming so I was thinking I better take this call thinking I drew one of my Wyoming hunts.

I stepped out of the room and took the call, as I said "hello" he said "is this Sal Piazza?" I said "yes it is," he said "this is Steve Kilpatrick from the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation". He said "are you aware that Saturday was our annual banquet?" I said "no" still not knowing what this was all about, I had completely forgot about buying a ticket from the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation when I was in Reno at the sheep show that year. He said "well are you sitting down because I think you should be." My heart started to race and the suspense was killing me. He then told me that they drew the winning ticket on Saturday night for the NWT Dall Sheep hunt with Ravens Throat Outfitters's and my name was drawn. I thought no way this could be real. I never win anything, this is one of my buddies playing a really bad joke on me. We continued to talk and it slowly started to all sink in, I was all smiles.

Everyone at work kept asking what was going on with me and why I was so excited. All I could say is I'm going sheep hunting in the NWT. Shortly after that I received a call From Raven's Throat outfitters congratulating me and asking when I wanted to come hunting. We ended up deciding on July 23, 2019, I had another hunt booked for that year and was trying to work around that. Ravens Throat Outfitters' did a great job and they were very accommodating. So we were set and I couldn't wait for July 2019 to get here.



The communication was excellent staying in touch with the Outfitter the whole time and I was able to meet up with the owners; Griz and Ginger at the sheep show in February of 2019. I spent a fair amount of time chatting with them and their guides at the show, walking away feeling like I was in great hands.

On July 22nd I started my adventure to Norman Wells. I had never been to the NWT so I was very excited. On the 23rd, I arrived in Norman Wells and was greeted, then driven to where the charter flight would leave from. About an hour later I was landing in some of the most beautiful country I had ever laid eyes on. Griz, Ginger and the crew were all there with a warm welcome, I met my guide, Devin, shot my gun, went through my gear, grabbed a little dinner and was deployed to the field by helicopter that night.

When we landed, the assistant guide Matt was in

camp already and had the tents set up with everything ready to go. We then had to wait our 12 hours before we were hunting.

The next morning we woke up around six o'clock. The guides had coffee going and were making breakfast burritos! I was like wow, I wasn't thinking we would have breakfast burritos out in the field with strips of bacon on them. We were eating breakfast and Devin looked over and said, "we got rams right here don't move." I looked over and 250 yards away were 3 rams feeding up the hill side. I was thinking no way but the best ram was only about a eight year old and Griz doesn't like to shoot anything less then a ten year old if possible. I was also definitely not wanting this hunt to be over that quick.

We packed up our gear and headed out. We covered a lot of ground the first day, spotting sheep off and on most of the day. I think by the end of the day we had seen between 15 and 20 rams,

but nothing that we wanted yet.

On day two during coffee and breakfast, I had spotted 2 rams from camp but nothing worth going after. We took off in a little different direction that day and about two hours into the morning and we had spotted a good group of rams. We set up the scope and began to pick them apart. Unfortunately, some decent rams but nothing we wanted to pursue. The fog and rain moved in shortly after and the visibility was not good. We hiked all day and found some really neat basins but mostly ewes and lambs. On our way back that night we came into the basin where all the rams were that morning. They were still there but had moved about a half mile and had picked up some friends. We set up the scope at about 2000 yards and confirmed that there were now 21 rams in the group with a few that needed a closer look. They were in a great spot where we could sneak in right above them and be in shooting range. We peaked over in the first spot and eight of them were bedded at about 250 yards. We studied them for a while and the best one was a 9 year old that was broomed on both sides, not what we were looking for.

We pulled back and worked our way down where we could see more of the group. We went up to the edge peaked over and we could see another part of the group but still not what we were looking for. We glassed up to our right and we could just see the heads of 3 good rams bedded about 500 yards away so we back

up one more time and worked our way up the ridge about 200 yards.

When we peaked over this time, we could see all three and Devin said these ones look better. We very carefully set up the spotter so that we could get an age on them. After about 15 minutes Devin said "I think the one is at least ten," but about that time a caribou came trotting over the ridge headed right for the rams. I was thinking, "oh great this stalk is over". Sure enough he ran directly into the rams and they took off running, I figured it was over but as luck would have it, they ran about 200 yards and stopped right below us. Once they realized it was just a caribou they bedded back down and now they were only about 175 yards away, so we had a real good look at them.

Devin and Matt looked him over one more time and said, "he is at least 10, if you want him take him." I was already settled in and ready for the shot and when they gave me the go ahead. I let one rip. He was still bedded when I shot and he never got up. They congratulated me and we made our way down to the ram.

We took lots of pictures and then started to process him. We were probably less than a mile from camp at that point, so all we had to do was go up and over the ridge and we were back at camp.

Once back at camp, the guides said "let's celebrate" and they had a 12 pack of beer hidden for the occasion. I was thinking this is awesome, I had

not imagined drinking beer on the mountain after the hunt. It was late but we had a few beers together and went to bed.

The next morning we slept in then had coffee and breakfast burritos again. What a treat! The helicopter came in to pick us up early that afternoon and we were back to base camp for dinner.

When I arrived, I was congratulated by everyone in camp and found out the other two hunters in camp had already killed good rams and were back in camp. One of the guys had also shot a real nice caribou and the other was headed back out for caribou that night. He was out for only one day and he found a nice bull and was headed back to base camp. We were all tagged out by day 4 and were thinking what now, we have a week left.

We had bad weather off and on through out most of the week but the accommodations were incredible. It was a very relaxing 5 or 6 days with great food, great company and some good fishing as well.

Griz and Ginger have only had the place for about 3 years but have worked non stop during the hunting season as well as the off season, making all kinds of improvements from building new cabins, to remodeling old cabins, built a cooler to hang meat in, a meat processing room, a huge solar system to run all of the electricity and much more.

The accommodations were incredible, I can't imagine that there is a more outstanding facility in the NWT.

I would highly recommend Raven's Throat, they are top notch. I work in the customer service industry and these guys provide great service. They truly have the client in mind in everything they do.

I can't wait to go back for Moose and Caribou!



Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation Raffle!

Win a **NWT Dall Sheep** hunt during the **2021 season**
with **Raven's Throat Outfitters** and a **\$3,500 Taxidermy**
credit for work by Dewey Wildlife Studio

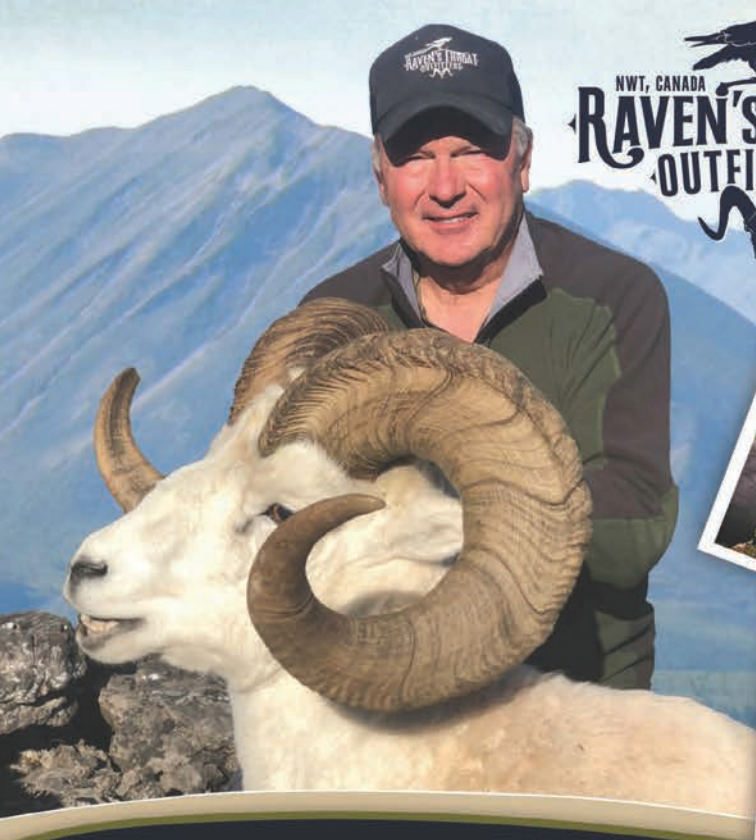
Only 600 tickets sold at \$100 each

This is a 10 day helicopter assisted backpack hunt for Dall Sheep in NWT donated by Raven's Throat Outfitters for 2021. Mountain Caribou may be hunted for an additional trophy fee. Hunter responsible for \$2,000 round trip charter flight, NWT government hunting licenses and harvest fees (\$550 total) plus \$100 hunter preservation fee required. 5% CDN GST on above costs. Also gratuities to guides. All costs stated in US funds.

TO PURCHASE TICKETS VISIT:
www.wyomingwildsheep.org

Ticket Purchase Incentive#1

For each ticket purchased prior to Dec 8, 2019, receive a bonus ticket to win a Smith & Wesson M&P Sport II in .223.



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high quality hunts in over 6,000 sq. mi. of

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Winter Fund Raiser/Banquet/Field Tour to be held in Sheridan on Dec 6-7, 2019!

Friday, December 6th

2:00-5:00 PM: Board Meeting at the Powderhorn Country Club.

6:00-9:00 PM: Informal Gathering and Hors D'Oeuvres at the Powderhorn Country Club- \$18.

Executive Director Steve Kilpatrick will update our grant in aid projects plus a slide show of 2019 events and rams harvested.

Saturday, December 7th

8:00-12:00 PM Saturday, Dec. 7, 2019, Meet at the Holiday Inn. 1809 Sugarland Drive, Sheridan. We will travel to the WGFD Story Fish Hatchery for a tour of one of the more progressive hatcheries in the West. Then we will split into two groups with one group visiting the Weatherby Firearms facility and the other will visit the King's Saddlery Museum(great history of the west) The two groups will then trade places so everyone will see both facilities.

12:00-1:00 PM- Lunch will be on your own

1:30-3:30 PM: Meet at the Powderhorn for seminars on Whiskey Mountain, CWD, Statewide Disease Surveillance, Devils Canyon Update, National Bighorn Sheep Center doings and WYO BH Sheep Hot Topics.

3:45-5:00 PM WY-WSF: Membership Meeting - The Powderhorn.

5:30 PM: Cash Bar, Raffles, Silent Auction items, Gun Raffle - The Powderhorn.

6:30 PM: Plated Prime Rib Dinner featuring Prime Rib for \$32, children 18 and under eat free.

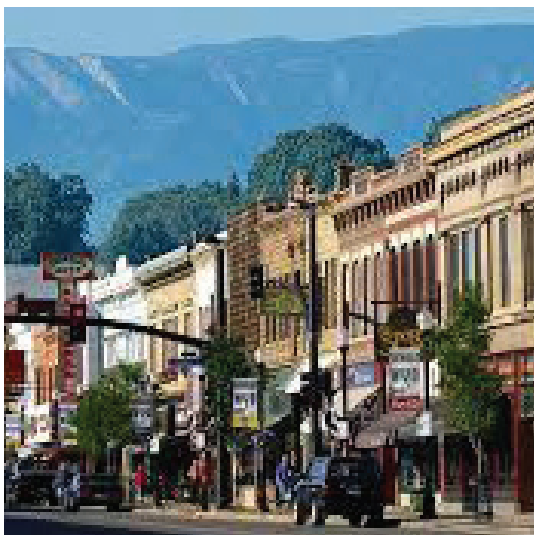
Formal Presentations During/After Dinner include:

- Daryl Lutz- Report on the state of each Big Horn Sheep Hunt Area
- Doug McWhirter - 2019 Harvest Update

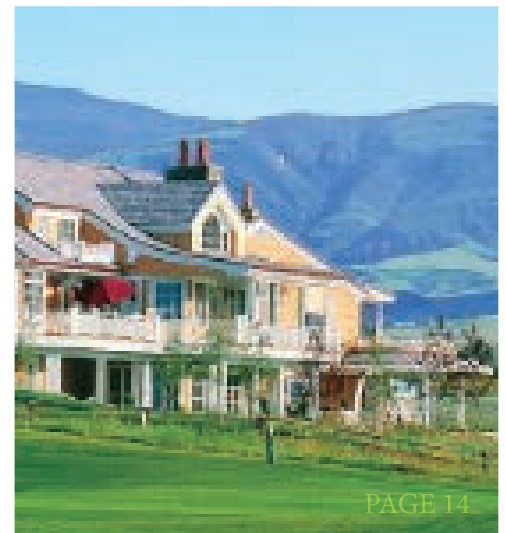
Register on line at: [www. Wyomingwildsheep.org/store.asp](http://www.Wyomingwildsheep.org/store.asp) for Friday night, Saturday dinners by [Nov 26th](#) or return the registration form with check or credit card info.

To make your own lodging arrangements, please call: The Holiday Inn, phone: 800-465-4329

Rooms start at \$94 per night, rooms blocked under: **Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation**. Room blocks expire on November **26th**.



A limited number of cottages with two and three bedrooms are available at the Powderhorn. For more information or to reserve: Contact Zach McDermott at (307)752-1212



My 2018 Sheep Safari

By Freddie Goetz, LM # 6

This article is the second installment of my 20 year commitment to the RamPage(only kidding!). I decided that I would attend the winter meeting and fundraiser in Lander the first weekend of December 2018. I had a really good time visiting with old friends Friday evening at our get together. On Saturday morning we went out to Washakie Reservoir to see if we could see some of the Temple Peak Sheep herd on their winter range. We didn't manage to see any wild sheep but did get a good look at the winter range. On the way back to Lander we stopped by Sacajawea's grave. They had a good size monument for her and her family. Some scholars argue that she is not buried in this cemetery but rather in South Dakota. We also stopped by the grave of Chief Washakie, leader of the Shoshone tribe. Saturday night we had a real good happy hour and I got to visit with lots of friends that I hadn't seem since our summer meeting and fund raiser. Then we enjoyed a buffet meal and a lot more visiting with everyone. I talked with Fritz Meyer to inquire about the wild sheep herd in the Dubois area and he told me it was doing very poorly with terrible lamb survival rates so I decided I wouldn't go to Dubois this year but rather spend my observation time in Cody.

On Sunday morning it was on to Cody for my 2018 Wild Sheep Safari. I made it to Cody in time to get checked into my room and then travel up the Nork Fork of the Shoshone to see if some wild sheep had survived the previous winter. While I did see 49 sheep that afternoon, I noticed that the lamb crop was down. I counted 29 ewes but only 3 lambs.

On Monday morning I got up early and went out to "Our Place" for breakfast and deliver a photo I had taken of an old windmill to the owner. He collects and displays such photos in his restaurant. Then is was off to the South Fork of the Shoshone. I only spotted 14 wild sheep that day, 7 rams and 7 ewes in 5 hours so not very good numbers for that amount of time spent looking.

I travelled back to Cody and made my way back up the North Fork canyon where I spent the rest of the day checking out the Bighorns. I managed to find 83 that afternoon, 53 were ewes but only 3 lambs. There is obviously a decline in the lamb numbers over the past few years. I also noticed that the winter conditions were quite a bit different from the previous year with 6-8 inches more snow on the ground even though I was here 10 days earlier then in 2017.

All in all I spent 5 days in the Cody area looking at Bighorn sheep. I took photos of some real nice Rams. My overall count was down from 2017 with the lamb count down about 50% from the year before. I have been keeping a daily total of the Bighorns that I see on both the North and South Forks of the Shoshone since 2014(I didn't make the trip in 2015) and here are the results:

South Fork					North Fork			
Year	Total	Rams	Ewes	Lambs	Total	Rams	Ewes	Lambs
2014	68	14	40	14	151	29	92	30
2015	No	Safari						
2016	75	11	44	20	130	25	72	30
2017	71	14	22	15	109	26	62	21
2018	18	6	9	3	83	25	53	5

As you can see, the wild sheep numbers have been declining each year, of course this is affected by the times I have been in the area as well as the weather. Most years I was there between Dec 2-20 and my December 2019 trip is planned for Dec 15.

I have been going back through the early newsletters and RamPages.

(Editor's note: Freddie has maintained a complete set of every newsletter every printed in mint condition, these are now posted on our website at: <https://www.wyomingwildsheep.org/rampages.asp>).

The first newsletter that I have in my records that we sent out to our members is the Winter of 1993/94. In the Spring of 2000, the newsletter became the "RamPage", we have come a long way in keeping our members informed on what's happening in our organization. In the Summer 2000 RamPage, we had 24 Bighorn sheep stories sent in by members who had stories to tell of their sheep hunts. Looking at the Fall 2018 issue I only found 8 stories. Please help keep our magazine exciting by writing up your sheep hunt stories and getting them to us at: info@wyomingwildsheep.org.

I also came across a Bighorn revision article from the Game and Fish dated 10/10/1997. I was totally blown away by the two areas that we transferred the most sheep to: 277 to the Temple Sheep herd and 396 to the Bighorn Mountains! In 1997 the total estimated population in these two combined areas was 68. Two other areas that we transplanted large numbers of wild sheep to include 236 to the Ferris/Seminole mountains and 200 to the Laramie Peak area. I know we have transplanted more sheep to these areas since 1997 and these two are producing some wonderful Bighorn hunting opportunities.

I spent three days in the Sybille Canyon area near Wheatland looking for wild sheep this winter as well. Travelling up Highway 34 on the first day I spotted 10 head, 2 nice big rams, 6 ewes and 2 lambs. I got some photos of the two rams when they were about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile off the road, quite a way up the draw for my camera's lens. During my best day in the canyon, I saw 25 wild sheep, a total of 8 rams, 12 ewes and 5 lambs. The access to take photos of wild sheep in the winter in this area is very limited.

Well I guess I have been rambling on about the Wyoming Bighorns long enough for this time. I hope to give you another report in 2020. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to write this report for the RamPage.



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### BAHAMAS UPDATE!

The Bahamas were ravaged by hurricane Dorian on Sept 1, 2019. The islands suffered losses ranging from minor to total devastation. Bob and Janice report that their home and neighborhood was relatively unscathed. The beach is intact, and the trees and our tropical foliage survived with very little damage. Currently there is neither water nor power at Casuarina Sea Breeze, but do expect both will be resumed on the southern part of the island within a week. Commercial flights have not yet resumed.

Marsh Harbor, the largest city on Abaco, was not so lucky suffering devastating destruction. A good friend's home was completely destroyed in Marsh Harbour. If you would like to help the people of Abaco and contribute to relief groups who are on the ground working in Abaco or friends with official donation sites, get in touch with Bob and Janice, please email them at:

[info.casuarinaseabreeze@vcn.com](mailto:info.casuarinaseabreeze@vcn.com)



# FEEL THE FULL EFFECT



WICKED  
RIVER  
OUTFITTERS



# 1966...What A Year!

By Bob Joslin, LM #140

I recently returned from wintering in Arizona. While reading the Spring 2019 RamPage, I thought to myself, "I should write a story about my sheep hunt which occurred in 1966". So, here goes.

After graduating in 1964 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry in Flagstaff, AZ and a pretty successful year on our college rodeo team, my wife, Lorna and I decided to head to Wyoming so I could compete in the Cody Night Rodeo. She and our son, Danny stayed with her folks who ran the motel, restaurant and gas station located at the east end of the causeway on Boysen Reservoir (no longer there, instead now a part of the State park). After the Night Rodeo ended in Cody, we headed to Meeteetse, where they had a big Labor Day Rodeo and celebration and where our best buddy, Bob Jacob lived. Bob introduced me to the Forest Service District Ranger, who he worked for. While visiting with him, he said that Bob had told him what I was up to and he asked me if I could work for them for a couple of months. Not having a set time to get back to a job I had lined up in Arizona, I said "sure". I about froze to death in my light Levi jacket and spent 2 months there before heading to Arizona.

In January of 1965, the ranger called and asked me if I would come to work for him on a temporary basis starting in May. We loaded up and back to Meeteetse we went. I participated in the Cody night rodeo show a few times that summer but was unable to do that very often as Bob Jacob kept me real busy.

That fall I received a permanent job with the Forest Service in Cody and off we

went to our new home. We had a new addition to our family, our daughter, Marcie, and we rented a downstairs apartment from Ron and Pat Singer. We became good friends with them and their two boys. One of their boys, Steve, still owns Cassies Restaurant in Cody. Ron was a native of Cody and we talked a lot about hunting. During the winter, we decided to both put in for a sheep tag, and if one of us drew, we would both go. One evening after returning from being in the back country, Ron asked me if I had gotten my reject notice from the Game and Fish. I didn't know so I asked Lorna who said I had something from them. I tore it open and it was my sheep tag. I went upstairs and told Ron, he said the reason I got it was because the Game and Fish and the Forest Service were in cahoots. He had been putting in for many years and had never drawn one nor did he ever draw one before he passed away.

The planning for the sheep hunt began. I can't remember which trailhead on the North Fork we were going to take but it was one that Ron had been up many times. I was up in the country between the North Fork and Sunlight Basin for several days that summer doing range analysis and I had seen some nice rams in the area where we were going. I was excited. We would ride in and camp a couple of days before the season opened and do some glassing.

About 3 days before our trip, I was called away to a fire in New Mexico. After about 7 days the good Lord took care of that fire with an all-night rain. So, I came back to Cody and we set up another plan. Wouldn't you know it, I got called away again on another fire down there. After all was said and done, I had

about 4 days left in the season so I told my boss I would be hunting for the next 5 days.

Ron and I packed our stuff in the middle of the night, loaded our horses and headed to the trailhead. There we packed up and away we went. Just before daylight we were about to run out of timber when we came upon a camp alongside the trail. Two guys came out of one of the tents and we had a conversation with them. They had been camped there and hunted the entire area seeing only a few ewes and lambs but no rams. Disappointed at the news, we carried on up the trail to about a one-acre clump of spruce sitting at the bottom of a very large basin.

We unpacked and began to glass. All of a sudden Ron said, "There are two rams up there". He got me on them, and we could see they were both legal but not real big ones. Made no difference, I was going after them, so we devised a plan. I would hike back down the trail and into the timber, then I would start my climb staying in the trees until I ran out of them. I would then continue to a spot where I would be just above where they were. I would then go along the slope very slowly until I got to a point that I thought I could shoot from. All along the way I would glass back to Ron to get signals from him. If he raised both arms it meant they were still there. If they had moved, he would hold both arms out and then point towards the direction they had gone. I continued across the slopes very slowly until I reached what I believed to be a good shooting spot. I began glassing and saw nothing, then glassed Ron and he shrugged his shoulders and put his hand out in front of him like he had no clue where they were.

I began to cross an



avalanche chute and just at the edge of it I went behind a limber pine tree. I began to look around and about 75 yards above me, those rams were looking down at me. I knew I had been had. Slowly I worked my gun around getting it pointed up the hill. I then got it so I could see thru the scope. I shot the first one I saw in my scope and hit him right below the left eye. Down he went and started his slide down the chute and went right by me. He finally stopped by another tree. I was elated and could not believe they had stayed and looked at me. I gutted him out and we started to slide down the chute. By the time we got halfway down the slope, Ron came up

and we got the ram to camp. Back then Grizzly Bears were not much of a concern.

We had a celebration and sacked out for the night. We were up early, ate, packed up and headed down the trail we went. Upon reaching the camp we came by the day before; Ron was in the lead and all 5 guys came out and asked him why we were going back so soon. About that time, I showed up with the sheep's head on my top pack. They could not believe the story Ron told them but there was evidence.

On we went to the trailhead and back to Cody where we were greeted by our families who were very excited. We hung the sheep up in a friend's cooler and

wound down from our excitement.

I had met a young guy new to Cody who was trying to be a taxidermist. He said he would mount the head along with two feet for a gun holder on a slab of ponderosa pine for \$100.00. He did that and that sheep head has hung in every house we lived in during our 13 moves with the Forest Service. It's hanging in our Lander home today. Our kids know that ram head very well, for the first five years it hung over our kitchen table, always a conversation piece at mealtime.

It was a great time in my life and one I will never forget. It was short, but as always, the main thing is;

**It was Successful!**



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# Notice! This Policy will be discussed and voted upon during our membership meeting in Sheridan on Dec 7, 2019

## Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation Life Member Trust Fund

This policy governs the establishment, growth and future use of the funds held in the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation's Life Member Fund.

Corpus Definition – The corpus is the principal amount of the fund.

The beginning balance of this fund is to be set at \$225,000 on June 30, 2019

The Fund corpus will be supplemented with all new life member dues and additional monies the Board may approve.

The primary purpose of the LM fund is to cover life member expenses. The gains from the corpus may be used as needed at the WY-WSF Board's discretion to pay life membership annual expenses and to support Grant In Aid projects.

Fund Corpus- Uses may include:

1. Annual costs of life membership expenses if fund appreciation revenues are insufficient.
2. Allotment retirement funding.
3. Defending lawsuits against the foundation and its officers or board of directors.
4. High priority and emergency wild sheep conservation projects – i.e. conservation easements, disease outbreak management, wildfire management which benefits wild sheep, etc

This is a permanent fund with an inviolable corpus. Thus, the corpus can only be utilized for major events as described above with the consent of the membership present at a membership meeting or through an email survey. At least 50% of the corpus must remain in the fund. A commitment to replace the corpus funds within a specific time frame will be agreed upon at the membership meeting when expenditures are approved.

**Note – This paragraph is an alternative to the above paragraph. It provides flexibility to the Board to utilize corpus funds for major events and emergencies without membership approval.** “This is a permanent fund with an inviolable corpus. However, the Board is authorized to use up to 50% of the corpus for high priority and emergencies described above. The Board will inform the general membership of expenditures at the next general membership meeting and provide a reimbursement schedule for their approval. “

The WY-WSF will inform members annually of the fund's growth and expenditures via an article in the Rampage and other media outlets.

Life Membership Fund assets will be invested at the discretion of WY-WSF Board in consultation with a certified and experienced investment firm. The WY-WSF Board will review investment returns and options annually.

If WY-WSF dissolves as a nonprofit 501c3 organization actively funding bighorn sheep conservation in Wyoming, all Life Membership Fund assets will be transferred to the national Wild Sheep Foundation. Said funds will be used solely to fund Wyoming Wild Sheep projects.



2018 SUPER TAG TRIFECTA  
WINNER BILL FRITZ

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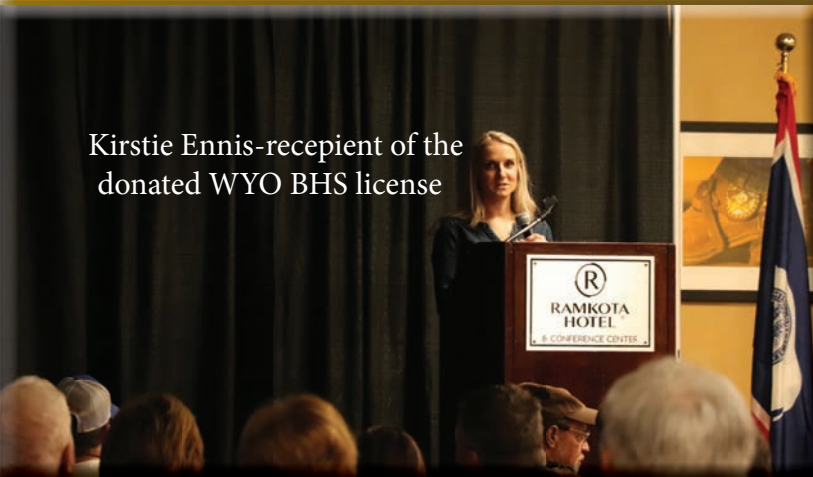
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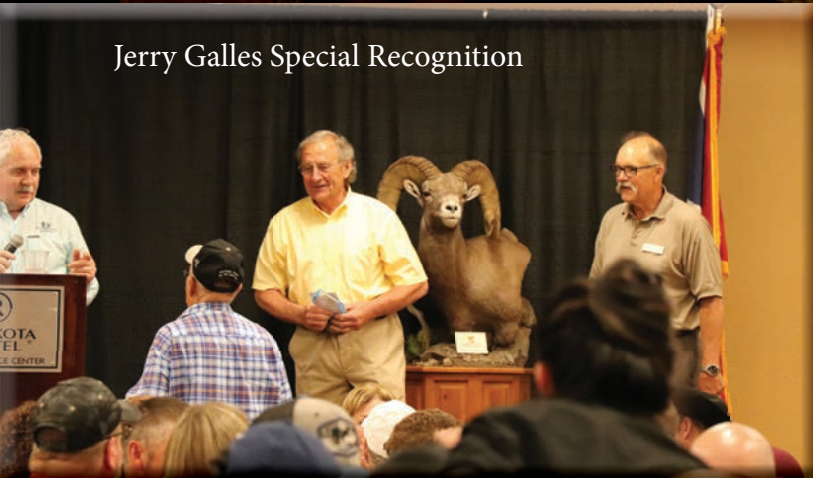
Live Auction



Zane Foust with Mom & Dad



2019 Ron Ball Award Winner-  
Joni Miller



Jerry Galles Special Recognition



Teachers of the Year Awards

You Wyoming wild sheep advocates just continue to exceed expectations! You made the 2019 annual event in Casper a wild success. The Friday evening social has grown from a handful of folks socializing a few years ago to over 150 in 2019. Folks were entertained by a revolving slideshow of members with their families and friends in the outdoors and a wild game of "corn hole". Saturday morning started off with the Life Member Breakfast, which has also grown from a couple dozen folks to over 140 in 2019. Attendees were provided with presentations by wounded veteran Kirstie Ennis and her Wy sheep hunt, Zane Foust and his upcoming Dall sheep hunt and an update on the WY-WSF's activities. The \$5,000 Life Member Breakfast incentive was won by Jim Collins, long-time supporter and prior Board Member. On to Saturday afternoon when 30-40 youth were provided with a unique experience – learning how to "climb like a bighorn" at the local rock-climbing gym. Youth activities continued into the evening with a variety of activities. Adults were entertained with presentations on human and equine backcountry survival and first aid.



# MAY 31-JUNE 1, 2019

WYO Sheep License Donor- Pepper Neustel receives a cast of the Ram horns.



Kids Laser Shot Game



Kids Climbing Wall Activity



Our 2020 Banquet will remain in Casper and will be held at the new Clarion Hotel(formerly the Parkway). With more space, completely remodeled rooms and convention areas plus upgraded phones and wi-fi, we are assured of an ideal venue for our convention. Watch our web page and the Spring edition of the RamPage for convention details.

Mark June 5&6, 2020 on your calendars, you won't want to miss this event!

The evening was exciting. The NWT Caribou hunt from Raven's Throat Outfitters was won by Jerome Garcia. Wyoming Game and Fish Commissioner tags from Mike Schmid, Gay Lynn Byrd and Ralph Brokaw generated remarkable revenue for wild sheep conservation. The Wyoming Governor's Sheep Tag, one of five sold across the nation, topped the national market at \$103,000. The auction, games and raffles were exceptionally lively, generating approximately \$248,000 in net revenue for the future of WY's wild sheep.

You wild sheep advocates have a "vision" and continue to invest in the future through the Conservation Fund (CF). The CF focuses on youth and wild sheep habitat. Rusty and Rosemary Gooch offered a CF challenged match of \$25,000. Well, you immediately accepted and matched their challenge in a matter of minutes, and then some – see CF update. Over 30 youth attended the event and took home everything from elk hunts and firearms to outdoor gear. Two teachers, Jordan Seitz (Encampment) and Brady Samuelson (Riverton) were awarded and recognized for "putting KIDS on the mountain". They each selected a youth to attend Camp Bighorn (see update). WY-WSF treasurer Joni Miller, was the recipient of the coveted "Ron Ball" award, presented to someone that goes "above and beyond". Well, Joni has gone beyond the beyond.

Words fall short of describing your passion.

**Thank you for "Putting and Keeping KIDS and WILD SHEEP on the Mountain".**





## Outstanding Bighorn Teacher Award 2019



As you know WY-WSF has a soft spot for kids. So, this year we teamed up with our partner the National Bighorn Sheep Center to honor two outstanding educators in the area of Wild Sheep Conservation.

This year's recipients are Brady Samuelson, from Riverton Middle School and Jordan Seitz, from Encampment K-12. They were recognized at the annual convention of the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation in Casper on June 1, 2019.

Brady and Jordan, along with their "herds" of students, are part of a team of scientists, managers and conservationists that strive to ensure the future of bighorns which exemplify Wyoming's most wild and rugged landscapes.

Through this bighorn team, the students are given the opportunity to develop an understanding and ethic for conserving bighorns and other wildlife species. Moreover, we learn from Brady, Jordan and the students how to better connect with our youth and gain their interest in conserving Wyoming's amazing wildlife. They have provided their thoughts on why "they do what they do"!

### Jordan Seitz: I'm a

Michigan native, but transplanted to Wyoming in 2009 to teach 6th grade all subjects, and 8th grade earth science at the rural K-12 school in Encampment. I'm married with three boys ranging from newborn to 4 years old. While my career is public education, my passion is the outdoors. Teaching in a place nestled between the Snowy Range and the Sierra Madre Range, I quickly realized I had a unique opportunity to combine them both. At first I tried really hard to incorporate academics into all my outdoor activities, and while I sometimes still do, I've found

that enrichment activities where they simply experience nature has a longer lasting impact. Now my primary goal is to expose as many students as possible to as many outdoor activities as I can. They may choose not to pursue them when they get older, but at least they will know they can. This goal causes students to appreciate wildlife and the land in a newfound way. They understand what it means to be a steward of the land through conservation, and a recreationalist who utilizes free public lands that are open 24/7.

Over the years my students have had many adventures, such as hiking, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, bird watching, fishing, rock hunting, horn hunting, exploring, orienteering, fire building, and shelter building. They've also been snowed out of two planned rafting trips...hopefully this

upcoming May isn't the third! In 2018 we partnered with the local Game and Fish Department to study our local bighorn sheep population. Of all the things I've done during a decade in education, this sheep study has been my favorite. My students develop a better understanding about the relationship between wildlife, the land, and humans, in addition to a feeling of pride as they become invested in one of America's iconic big game species. What I didn't anticipate early on was how we'd develop a special relationship with Game and Fish biologists Teal Cufau, Katie Cheesbrough, and Will Shultz. Not only do the students have a greater respect for the department and individuals, but many have been inspired to consider similar careers when they get older. How cool is that?!



Jordan with wife Brooke, Archie (4), August (2), August -new baby not pictured.



## Brady Samuelson:

I'm a 4th generation Fremont county resident with a passion for wildlife and education. I've been fortunate to grow up in a family of hunters and conservationists, and to live in a location that offers a variety of outdoor experiences. Growing up, we spent time in the mountains big game hunting, hunting upland birds over our dogs, calling coyotes in the sagebrush, and laying in frozen fields surrounded by waterfowl decoys.

This exposure to wildlife and wildlands fostered a passion for conservation that extended into my education at the University of Wyoming. I took many ecology and wildlife biology classes while pursuing my degree in life science education.

As a teacher, I try to incorporate conservation and some

form of wildlife education into each lesson, whether it be genetics, cell biology, evolution, and especially in ecology. During our ecology unit, about 20 students are selected from the 200 6th grade students at Riverton Middle School to take a trip to the National Bighorn Sheep Center in Dubois. We apply our understanding of ecology to the alpine ecosystems of the Wind River and Absaroka mountain ranges. After an excellent tour of the NBSC, we have lunch in Dubois, then proceed up the Trail Lake Road to observe bighorn sheep in their winter range.

Students are required to fill out an application to be selected for this unique educational experience; then are required to

complete projects centered around the alpine ecosystem. Entering the 5th year of taking students to the National Bighorn Sheep Center, this application process continues to become more competitive. It is used as a reward for students with the most passion for our Wyoming wildlife, and the best work ethic; students who deserve a fun day on the mountain.

I, along with my amazing wife, look forward to raising our two young boys in this wonderful state. You will soon find us in the backcountry, out on the sagebrush steppe, and hunting in the wetlands. I hope to instill the passion for conservation education in my own boys, my colleagues and my students.

## Teacher Awards

Teachers of the Year; Jordan Seitz from Encampment and Brady Samuelson from Riverton each were presented a folding knife with scrimshaw work done by John Finley.

Each teacher nominated a student which we sponsored at Camp Bighorn.

Jordan Seitz– Madi Dunning  
Brady Samuelson - Alexis Penden

Essay Contest winner – Henry Stueckler – Riverton was granted a life membership to WY-WSF.

Brady with McKenzie holding Everett(5 months) and Axel(2yrs).

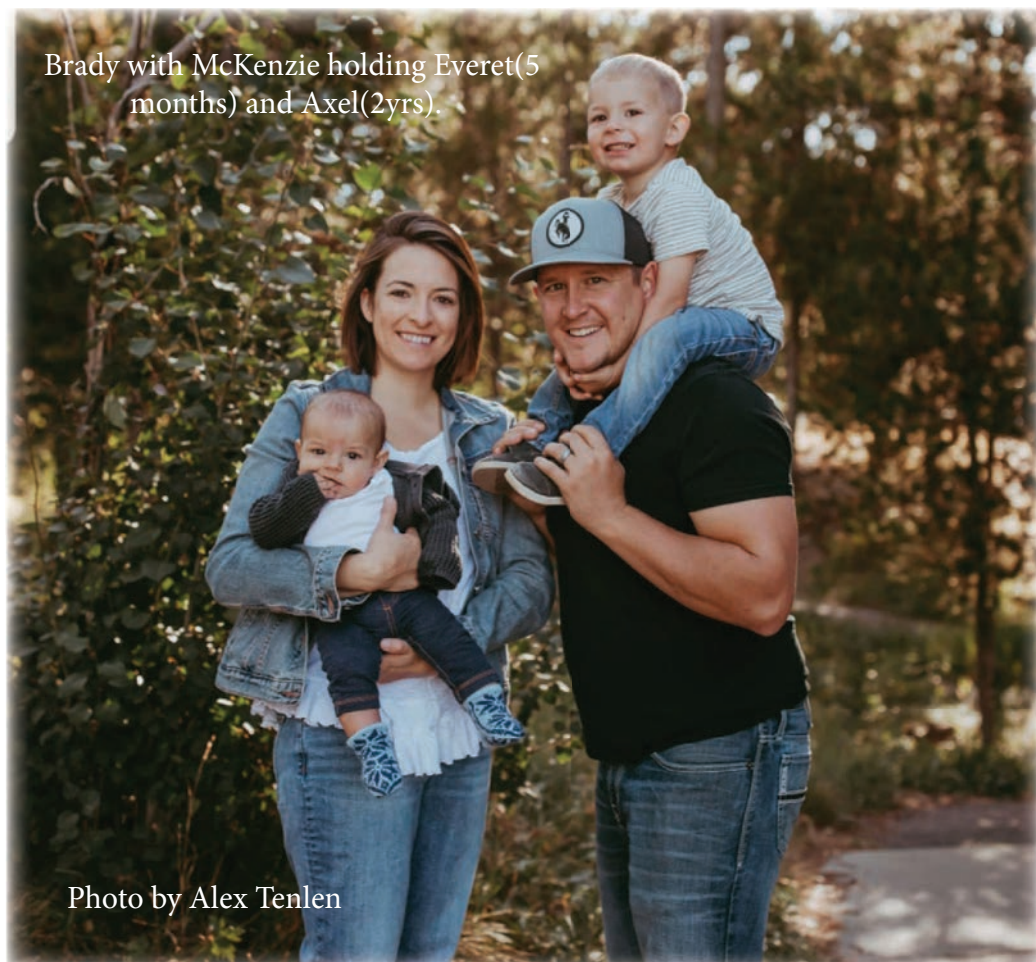


Photo by Alex Tenlen



Madi



Alexis



# GRANT IN AID UPDATES

## Sheep nutrition, predation, and disease: a successful first season monitoring lambs Brittany Wagler, Rachel Smiley, and Kevin Monteith

The summer crew for the Bighorn Sheep Nutrition-Disease Research Project all leaned in close whispering the final plan of the sneak before splitting up in attempt to collar a lamb, born early that morning. Their spotter was already glassing from a high point across East Torrey Creek in the northern Wind River Range, trying to get eyes on the ewe and lamb pair.

Fresh snow from the previous night had absorbed the sound of their steps up the Whiskey Mountain Trail and through the timber towards Middle Mountain. Following the signal from the radio telemetry, which picks up a high-frequency signal from the ewe's collar, they began inching forward; one group led the sneak from above the cliff band while the other followed from below. As they approached the birth site, the telemetry started booming, indicating the ewe was very close.

They radioed to the group below to stay in position, as Brittany crawled to the cliff's edge to try to spot the ewe. After a quick glance below, she motioned to the rest of the group to descend to the lamb. The upper group managed to find a crack in the cliff with just enough footing to make it down. Brittany kept eyes on the ewe while Rachel and Landon continued to creep in silently. When they were about 40 yards from the ewe she spotted them, glanced directly at her lamb laying in the snowy meadow, and immediately disappeared into the timber.

From her vantage point above the cliff, Brittany shouted, explaining where she had seen the ewe look. Rachel and Landon ran towards that point and the lamb immediately popped up from his bed site. After a short sprint, Landon cut the lamb off and scooped it up while the rest of the crew moved in with the capture supplies.

They weighed and measured the ten-pound lamb, took nasal swabs for pathogen testing, and slipped on a GPS collar. After successfully releasing the lamb, they climbed back up the rock chute to make their

way back to the trailhead.

This type of sneak operation became routine throughout the lambing season. The wet and cold spring and frequent June snowstorms made for many days of soaked feet and miles of post-holing. Despite the weather conditions and the impressive speed and agility of a newborn lamb, they captured 14 in the Whiskey herd and 4 in the Gros Ventre herd. Several lambs died in their first couple weeks of life from predation and other factors, as is typical with most newborn ungulates. Lambs started to die of pneumonia in late June. After the first lamb died of pneumonia, this was the only cause of death observed thereafter. Ages of the pneumonia mortalities ranged from 29 – 78 days.

**As of late September,  
three lambs are still alive:  
two in Whiskey and one  
in the Gros Ventre.**

The team of researchers from the Monteith Shop at the University of Wyoming, along with biologists and wildlife managers of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Tribal Partners from all over the northwest part of the state aim to gather more lamb survival data over the next two years and begin to pull apart the differences between the lambs that succumb to pneumonia and those that survive pathogens in the herd. In addition, the summer crew spent most of July and August conducting habitat surveys and collecting fecal samples on sheep summer ranges. With these data they will be able to assess habitat quality of each sheep's summer range and analyze their diets to determine summer nutrition. Overall, they hope to better understand how environmental factors influence how sheep respond and cope with disease.

For the past century, bighorn sheep herds have experienced die offs, largely because of bacterial pathogens associated with pneumonia.

Some populations are able to recover quickly from these die-offs while others continue to decline or remain stagnant.

The Whiskey Basin herd has been struggling to recover from a pneumonia outbreak in the 1990's. The Gros Ventre herd has suffered several outbreaks in the past few decades, but has recovered following each outbreak. Ongoing research throughout North America has made strides in identifying the specific pathogens involved in causing pneumonia, however, the ecological factors that may well interact with the presence of disease remain unclear. Nevertheless, it is an understanding of those ecological factors that may help identify management alternatives for populations afflicted by disease.

With critical support from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust, Wyoming Governor's Big Game License Coalition, Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation, Wild Sheep Foundation, Bowhunters of Wyoming, and Wyoming Wildlife/Livestock Disease Research Partnership they will continue to monitor lamb survival, assess habitat quality, and monitor adult pathogen prevalence and nutritional condition.

**Although much  
more support will be  
needed to see the project  
through to completion,  
the current partnerships  
are strong and all  
players, from financial  
supporters all the way  
to the researchers are  
committed to helping  
do their part in seeking  
possible solutions to  
aid in keeping sheep  
on the mountain.**



# GRANT IN AID UPDATES





# GRANT IN AID UPDATES

## Devils Canyon Bighorn Sheep Movement Analysis By Sam Stephens, WYO G&F

In his famed publication "Mountain Sheep" the author and biologist Valerius Geist describes a particular niche habitat which mountain sheep throughout the world have evolved to occupy. Dry climates hosting a climax grass community dominated by coarse plants support an ungulate with a digestive system specialized to reproduce and flourish in such a hostile environment. In Wyoming, no mountain range fits this description better than the aptly named Bighorn Mountains. In 1836, upon exploring the Bighorn Basin, Medicine Lodge, and the Nowood River: the trapper and frontiersman Osborne Russell describes the Bighorn River as a name "derived from the vast numbers of mountain sheep or big horn inhabiting the mountains through which it passes". As was the case throughout much of the American west, bighorn sheep were eventually extirpated from the Bighorns via the concoction of market hunting, habitat loss, and the introduction of detrimental

pathogens. The last known sheep population, native to the Bighorn Mountains occurred between the Cloud Peak Wilderness and Paintrock Creek. With the hopes of recovery the herd was augmented in the 1950s and 60s, however these efforts proved futile and the last documented sighting was of two sheep in March of 1983. Numerous other efforts to reintroduce bighorn sheep to these mountains has occurred in the last 50 years, though none have been successful as the Devils Canyon herd.

Established in 1973 with 39 sheep from Whiskey Mountain, this herd idled along until augmentation efforts occurred in 2004 and 06. These newly introduced individuals (n=40), hailed from a markedly drier and more temperate climate (Deschutes River, OR & Missouri River Breaks, MT) where earlier lambing seemed to be more synchronized with the phenology of sheep forage. Since then, the population has grown to roughly 200 sheep and has allowed Wyoming Game and

Fish managers to allow six rams to be harvested out of the herd annually. Exceptional horn growth has become a staple of this herd as some rams aged at 6-8 years are measuring above 180" gross. No doubt the trophy quality of this herd is drawing attention.

As a fairly isolated population with proximal sheep herds, domestic sheep, and unknown threats the greatest concern for managers and sportsmen invested in the Devil's Canyon herd, is the potential for a disease outbreak associated with the introduction of a new pathogen. Thus far the Wyoming chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation has been instrumental in funding disease monitoring within this population and to date *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* has yet to be detected. The latest results from disease sampling occurred in February of 2019 where 13 sheep were captured using Native Range Capture Services, and sampled by WGFD personnel. These sampling results yielded "nothing new"

but the pathogens detected prior to 2019 are still extant in the population including: *Mannheimia haemolytica*, *Mannheimia glucosida*, and *Pasteurella multocida*. Despite these results, something appears to be influencing the recent population growth of the Devils Canyon sheep.

From 2008 to 2016 the Devils Canyon sheep herd experienced exceptional reproductive rates averaging 53 lambs per 100 ewes and ranging from 47-60:100. However in 2017, 18, and 19 the population has seen poor lamb ratios of 32, 37, and 44 respectively. While this population is classified from the air in the middle of summer, it's difficult to identify exactly why this is



Tony Mong holds a ram while Matt Lentsch collects fecal samples



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happening or what this means for the population, especially when the data is collected when the lambs are only 2 months old.

Abundance of sheep in the herd has also decreased in the last three years although much of that can be attributed to individuals removed for transplants. Abundance in this population is monitored using a trend or raw count from the air, to give managers a known minimum population. In 2019 we observed 143 sheep in roughly four hours of flying. This brings the three year average to 155 sheep, which is below, but still within 20% of the 175 sheep objective set in 2015. It's worth noting that after the 143 sheep were identified from the air, an additional 44 rams, 11 ewes, and four lambs were found from the ground the following day. Given this was the third year that a large group of sheep was missed from the air, it begs the question of how much movement is going undetected.

To investigate these questions and gain insight into the future of Devils Canyon bighorns, the Wyoming chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation in conjunction with the Wyoming Governors Big Game License Coalition has graciously awarded the

WGFD the funding opportunity to GPS collar a proportion of ewes and rams within the herd this coming winter. WGFD personnel plan to deploy 10 and 20 collars on Devils Canyon rams and ewes respectively, in winter of 2019-20. These collars will be programmed to collect location data in real-time every 6 hours and are estimated to function for a minimum of 3.5 years. This will be the first time that a movement analysis has occurred within this herd since the last transplant occurred in 2006. Having access to real-time location data for roughly 15% of the population will give managers and partners the ability to monitor vital rates and movements to potentially respond to sheep dispersing away

from the herd unit. Additionally this data will be used to more efficiently monitor and classify the population both in the summer and winter seasons to enhance our understanding of lamb survival and recruitment. Finally, we plan to disease sample these individuals both at the initial collar deployment and recovery periods to detect changes in pathogen presence over the three year course of the study. This work will be an integral component to keeping Devils Canyon Sheep on the mountain, and we at the Wyoming Game and Fish Department want to thank the Wyoming chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation for the opportunity.



Devils Canyon in February



# “Meant to Be”

By Jamie Daley

I have tried to think of words to describe the ride of my sheep hunt. The best fit I have come up with is “meant to be”. The first time I felt a touch of the sheep bug was September 14, 2018. My hunting companion Troy sent me a snap shot of a huge ram that he encountered in the hunting area that we both had deer tags in. I looked at the picture and thought that if I didn't start applying for sheep tags now, I'd be hunting sheep from a Rascal at age 85!

So, in January I finally applied for my first sheep point. I applied to the Seminoles unit where Troy had come across the big ram the previous fall. I knew that the Wyoming Game and Fish with assistance from Wyoming Wild Sheep had been improving habitat and transplanting wild sheep into this area.

When I applied, there were no tags available to those with less than max points. I knew full well that I was only starting the long process of building points. Between the time that I applied and the draw date, the WG&F announced at their spring public meeting that they were going to add 1 additional tag in this particular unit. I had only heard it in passing. I never thought that when I checked the draw results online that I would read the word “successful”. But that is exactly what I read. I was floored! I would be hunting sheep in the same unit as “The Big Boy”.

June 1<sup>st</sup> was the first of many scouting trips to the unit in search of him. After some hiking, we spotted a single ram and got out the big glass to get a better look. There he was, the ram that Troy had spotted 9 months earlier. I could not believe my eyes. As we watched him feed across the basin, it became apparent that he was

in a bad way. He had a heavy limp on his left front shoulder, and he was fairly starved down. We watched him for the better part of an hour and figured that he might not make it to the fall season. If he didn't die of natural causes, he would never win a foot race with a mountain lion.

To our surprise, however, on return trips to the unit during the summer, we were able to catch glimpses of him and every time he seemed to be doing a little bit better. He had found a band of other rams and I had hope that he would survive! The big boy was a nomad and we were seldom able to turn him up in the same area. It always took some time to round him up.

In 1979, my dad drew a sheep tag in the Salmon River area of Idaho. After the season closed, the only things that he had to show for his hunt were major blisters on his feet, great landscape pictures, and some pretty great stories about him hunting sheep. My dad never found a legal ram to shoot, but he shared the stories with me over the years and I still get a chuckle out of them. Unfortunately, my dad passed away in October of 2018. From the moment that I found out that I had a sheep tag, I felt like he had a behind the scenes hand in all of it. Every time I thought about sheep hunting and harvesting a ram, thoughts of his hunt and how difficult it was crept into my mind.

Several good hunting friends of mine spent the opening weekend of archery sheep season glassing the several different haunts that the big boy was known to visit, but we were unable to turn him up. I kept thinking that something must have happened to him and he didn't make it. I had to return to work for a 3-day run

and I tell you, I was worthless. I had sheep on the brain 24-7. Friday finally came and I was ready. I met my buddy, Cale at sheep camp at first light and we were off. We reached one of the places where he was most spotted, and as the sun came up, we were neck deep in fog. We could not even see a hundred yards. We waited for a while and were almost ready to move on when Cale spotted a single knob sticking out of the fog a couple miles away. There was a sheep laying right out in the open. Before I could even mention that he had a pretty impressive set of horns, he stood up and took a couple steps... He was limping on his left front side! It was him! We couldn't get our spotting scopes and gear packed up fast enough, we were off! Cale and I were able to get above the sheep and found him in the middle of 20 other rams about 600 yards below us. We watched the band and they were being sheep. Feeding, laying around, and then feeding some more. We came up with a plan of attack and I began the stalk at 9:30 AM. By 10:30 AM, I had shed my boots and any extra gear and I had managed to work down below them, get the wind in my favor, and closed the distance to 60 yards. I could not have drawn a better location for a stalk. I had enough contour in the hillside and tree cover to creep in, but not so much as to hide the sheep. Then the waiting game was under way. I knew that my effective bow range was 45 yards. Anything beyond that and things would get sketchy fast! The ram walked around and fed at 59 yards and then bedded down. There were sheep everywhere. There were several times that sheep fed by and I was certain they would spot me. 42 eyeballs are pretty hard



to fool. Next, the ram got up with a few smaller rams and moved to 53 yards, still out of my ability. We played this game for nearly 3 ½ hours. You can imagine that I was a wreck, I was having a hard time keeping my faculties under control! Several times I just had to look at my feet and try pull my thoughts back to clarity.

I thought about my dad sitting up on a ridge scanning for sheep. More than once I felt like he was there with me, watching with as much anticipation as me.

Around 1:15 PM he moved with 2 other rams to 46 yards, but he stayed covered up. I didn't have a shot. Over the next 30 minutes, the other two sheep got up and left us alone, in the open, in range. I watched as he fidgeted and rocked around, I knew it was close to go time. I looked at where I was, tucked away, and trying to figure out how I would

move to clear my bow. I looked up and there he was standing up. I rocked up on my knees and drew my bow all in one motion. He never moved. The arrow was off, and I watched it telegraph across the distance

for what seemed like 5 minutes. I knew as it connected that the arrow had found its mark. Just like that, he was 2 jumps and over a rise out of my sight. I let out a heavy breath, the one that I think I had been holding for the last 4 hours. Almost immediately I heard Cale hooting from the ridge top and I knew our hunt

the tendons were just a wad of scar tissue. He most likely would not have made it another winter. I am amazed that I had the opportunity to see the ram, draw the tag, locate him over summer, have him survive a busted leg, and to finally harvest this great ram with my bow, it really was meant to be. I was



had been a perfect success.

When we caped him out we found the reason for his limp. Sometime after Troy spotted him in September, he had blown out his left knee. The joint was mostly gone, and

lucky all the way around. Thank you to all the friends and family that put time and sweat into our hunt. I could never tell them thanks enough, and this is their trophy as much as mine!



Ross Gorman  
PHOTOGRAPHY









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## Encampment Sheep Continue To Get Kids On The Mountain

As I write this, we've had some frost in the valley, and some snow on our mountain tops. This means a lot of things, such as big game seasons amping up, and getting back into the swing of things for another school year. This also means for the third year I get to help introduce another group of students to

didn't waste any time and got out with my new sixth graders, and also my eight graders who actually got to be a part of our first capture that was published in the Spring 2018 edition of the RamPage. We saw 40 sheep. One was a young ram, 10 or 11 were lambs, and the rest were ewes (two had working GPS

work, and why this study is so important. Wild bighorn sheep were extirpated from the Encampment River Canyon in the early 1900s due to disease and unregulated hunting. There were three transplant efforts from Whiskey Mountain in the 60s, 70s, and then in 1989. There were 17-20 sheep



our local bighorn sheep herd.

In the spring of 2019, we took a trip looking for fresh lambs, but missed seeing any freshly dropped by a few days. In the beginning of September, I

collars). Not a great lamb to ewe ratio - something worth noting.

Biologist Teal Cufaude joined us and gave the kids a rundown on the sheep's history in this area, how GPS and VHF collars

brought in each time. They really flourished, but the winters of 83 and 84 were devastating to their growing population.

Our current sheep herd is relatively stagnant, with an unknown population size; it could



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By Jordan Seitz

possibly be as large as 60-80 sheep. We anticipated gathering a lot of data quickly, so we could get some habitat improvement going sooner than later. And yet, this past winter had other plans. Due to poor health and/or predators - the carcasses were scavenged or cached by mountain lions - we are left with two working GPS collars. The status is currently unknown for two VHF collars and a third GPS collar, which we will try to find before snow falls permanently.

On our September trip, Teal also shared a golden eagle that she'd just picked up with some unique baggage: it was carrying a GPS backpack and had two leg bands! It was neat to discuss the way biologists track the movement of other species in addition to sheep, and how G&F personnel can work together through interstate cooperation...because this Encampment raptor had been fitted with it's tracking device in Arizona!



**Even though we don't have a concrete plan yet for growing our sheep herd, one thing is certain:**

**These sheep are helping put Encampment kids on the mountain!**





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## “It was the best camp ever!” – Luke from Dubois Inaugural “Camp Bighorn” hosted by the National Bighorn Sheep Center a Success

The first-overnight “Camp Bighorn” held at the Whiskey Mountain Conservation Camp near Dubois, WY in early July this year was a great success!

The National Bighorn Sheep Center hosted 25 amazing youth ages 9-12 years old from as far away as Alaska and as near as Dubois to participate in this educational, fun camp designed to inspire and educate youth about bighorn sheep and their habitat.

From a trek to the top of Torrey Rim (everyone made it!), to hands-on lessons about riparian macroinvertebrates alongside Torrey Creek to an exploration of forest ecology and habitat management, youth participants dove in deep to explore this amazing place and home to the Whiskey Mountain herd of Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep.

A full year of planning and preparations on the part of the National Bighorn Sheep Center’s Education Manager Karen Sullivan and a team of 40 fabulous volunteers culminated in five days of immersion in the Torrey Valley ecosystem “through the eyes of a bighorn”.

A few highlights from the Camp include a demonstration and presentation about wildlife taxidermy by volunteer and long-time Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation member Lynn Stewart of Dubois. Kids handed around hides, noses and learned about the art of taxidermy. Additionally, kids were enthralled with local artist Tom Lucas who crafted a beautiful spear point from a chunk of rock, as well as Crowheart artist Laney Hicks

who shared her eye for detail in nature through her artwork.

The kids also participated in many outdoor activities from hikes



all around the valley to a rainy canoe trip down Torrey Creek and an archery program with Mountain Grace Church topped off with a bighorn horn-bow shooting demonstration by Tom Lucas.

Ryan Brock, the Education Coordinator of the Wild Sheep Foundation led a great program focused on hunting as conservation, a core focus of the entire camp program.

Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation’s own Steve Kilpatrick brought his flair for wildlife habitat management with a drip torch, fire-starting ping-pong balls and water pump, all of which were a highpoint and

provided some excitement for the kids (and volunteers!).

With generous financial support from seven different Wild Sheep Foundation Chapters and Affiliates, the majority of the 25 youth participants qualified for scholarships we provided and were able to attend Camp Bighorn for half the cost.

In order to be the long-running and successful program we envision, the National Bighorn Sheep Center will continue to work with our partners to ensure future Camp Bighorn programs will be offered to a diverse and national audience of youth.

In January, the National Bighorn Sheep Center will be hosting a workshop dedicated to training staff and volunteers in “Project Wild” activities and lesson plans, adding to the quality of programs offered at future camps.

If you have not had a chance to see the short video that captures some of the moments at Camp Bighorn created by our partner, Ryan Brock, be sure to visit our website [www.bighorn.org](http://www.bighorn.org) and go to the “Camp Bighorn” program page.





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This amazing Camp Bighorn could not have been accomplished without the help of an amazing group of volunteers, partners and sponsors, including the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation and the Wild Sheep Foundation.

Our sincere gratitude to this stellar group of people who helped make Camp Bighorn a success.





# “THE CROSSHAIRS RAM”

by Suzanne and Dan Marino

For 22 years my husband Dan Marino, an avid hunter and wildlife enthusiast has encouraged me to apply for a Wyoming Bighorn Sheep tag. I was in denial and never dreamt that it would actually happen. Then in May 2019, with the biggest grin possible, Dan held an envelope up with my tag and said “you better get your *act together*”; hike, work out and start shooting his 270 rifle, the moment had arrived. Mid-August, and time was up, I hadn’t worked out or hiked, so being in shape was going to be an issue. There was only time left for a crash course in riding a horse and learning to shoot a powerful rifle. The hunt was set for September 2- 7, 2019. Was I ready? NO, I’m 66 and not in great shape, I was frightened and concerned because I had never done anything like this.

Off we went; two mules and three horses were packed as we headed deep into the Gros Ventre Mountain range, east of Jackson, WY. Just before dusk, approximately 15 miles up the rugged trail into the mountains our first destination appeared, a beautiful meadow where we’d make camp for 5 nights. So far Silas the wonder mule had done all the work. The haunting thought of “am I up to this?” lingered. I tried not to focus on these negative thoughts. I was going to take it one step at a time, and I knew that my husband Dan and Steve Kilpatrick were avid hunters, patient men with a great attitude; they’d push me hard and cheer me on, assisting me at my own pace.

After a great night’s sleep we picked up our day packs and hiked up onto a ridge above camp to glass. Within an hour or two Dan had located a few nice rams off in the distance. He handed me

the binoculars and showed me the area with the rams. Then, down the mountain and back to camp where we packed the mules and headed out for a closer look. Using a GPS and our four-legged friends we navigated the trail towards the rams. After a couple of hours on the trail, we tied up and continued on foot, heading straight up to the steep cliffs of the basin.

Once we’d reached a good vantage point, Dan and Steve

Reluctantly I moved forward, knelt on the loose shale and crept to the edge of the precipice. It was surreal, so many beautiful Rams, just lying there unaware of our presence. Before I could take in the moment, the rifle was handed to me, I lifted it and peered through the scope. Steve had suggested I dry fire on the heart/lung area of the rams, which I did a couple dozen times. I was amazed that I felt calm and relaxed. Then

the shocking reality of the time of day and the remote location of the rams snapped into focus. It was 5pm, how would we get into this basin, debone him and get out by nightfall? Because the sheep had not been bothered, we believed that in the morning they would be in the approximate area. So I wanted to leave and return the next day. As we hiked out, I was certain that both Dan and Steve were in complete shock. This was an amazing once in a lifetime opportunity and any experienced hunter would have taken the shot and spent the night out.

The next morning, effortlessly the horses and ole Silas lead us back up

into the cliffs above the rams. This time we decided to climb up and across a different mountain offering us another view into the basin and surrounding area. After an hour or so, with only one small ram in sight, Dan climbed up the mountain behind me so he could look deeper into the drainage and scan the entire area. It seemed like only an hour or so and Dan returned, out of breath and excited. He had seen a large ram moving my way around the mountain cliffs behind me. I needed to get up, grab my gear and follow him. I was praying, out of breath and struggling to keep up with him. After about a half hour or so, slowly sneaking out onto a

walked over to the edge of the cliff. I really had to swallow hard and let go. Steve and Dan had done all they could to keep me safe and comfortable to this point, but they couldn’t control my fears. At that moment I realized that this was so much bigger than I was, I found comfort praying and confessing to God that I wasn’t prepared for this and that I needed to *turn it over to Him*.

Dan and Steve were not aware of my true fears, they were consumed by the nice rams in view 270 yards below. They were lying down, looking through their binoculars and spotting scopes, whispering and waving me in.





steep shale ridge with a series of steep cliff chutes, we settled into a place where we could wait for the sheep to come to us.

A beautiful bald eagle was soaring above, so I was having a hard time focusing on a sheep. I felt some comfort in watching the movement of the eagle, perhaps it was a good omen. After just a few moments, I decided to pick up the rifle, not because I wanted to, but because I knew Dan would tell me to get ready in case a ram appeared. I lifted the rifle, it seemed lighter than any other time, without any thought I put the scope to my eye where the lens focused on a small opening in the shale ridge some 75 yards away. Within seconds, a large set of horns came into my sight and then in three steps his full body was in my scope. For a moment I was distracted because another large ram walked up behind him. I needed to focus on the first amazing ram that had now turned broadside perfectly into my crosshairs! I told Dan that I had a ram, he said "shoot" and with that one shot, it was over. Dan had said many times to me, "when the moment comes, my fear, the recoil and the sound of the rifle would be nonexistent", and it was.

Now several other rams were scurrying and running up and over the shale ridge. Steve likened it to chickens "fleeing the coop", which brought a healthy chuckle to the moment and lightened the intensity.

Steve said "look he's dead" as he spotted my sheep tumbling out

the end of a chute some 400 yards away. Now, how to drop into the basin below to retrieve the sheep? We'd need a steady mule to help carry the ram out, so Steve went to get ole Silas, while Dan and I climbed down and around into the shale field. After sometime of side slipping Dan shouted "two sheep are down", my first concern was that I'd hit another ram? Then Dan yelled there's a bear! I looked to the west and saw a large black bear making his way down the ridge. I was fixated on his heavy coat which was shifting side to side with his brisk movements. He spotted us, turned and went back up the trail and over the mountain. I was relieved but Dan was still shouting bear! So, I turned and looked up the mountain at him, another bear plus a dead ram was only about 20 yards away from him. This large bear had been lying on a dead ram from days prior. The horns were placed neatly on a rock next to the carcass. Dan picked up a rock and threw it at the bear while he was pulling out his bear spray. The bear looked around and took off running in the same direction as the first bear. Ole Silas had handled the sight of

that bear, she stood steadfast with Steve a short distance away.

After examining the smelly ram and picking up the horns we proceeded across the shale field another 100 yards or so. My ram had fallen and rolled a long way down the steep rocky chute, thankfully nothing was damaged.

I just wanted to sit with Silas on the rocks and take in the magnitude of this lifetime experience, plus watch for bears while Dan and Steve caped and deboned this beautiful ram. In three days, the hunt was over. It was way too short. I was just starting to get into it, feeling stronger and more confident than before. I wasn't ready to leave but we'd have to get the meat and cape out to preserve them. So the next morning we packed up and headed out.

I now have a higher level of respect for nature and these majestic animals that timelessly endure this wilderness habitat. I am blessed beyond belief to be able to walk on their same precipice and am thankful to my husband, Steve Kilpatrick, the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation and all that made my experience possible.









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Damon Epp



# “Hunting With Lost Creek Outfitters”

When I was young and broke, I booked a five species hunt in Alaska 5 years out to allow me to save for it. A lot happens in five years. I was involved in a construction accident, broke my back, hip, arm and along with that, some internal damage. I spent eleven months in and out of hospitals and lost my job. Doctors said I was lucky to walk again and that there would be many things I could never do again. They placed a lot metal in my body. I kept applying for tags (not sure what I would do if I drew one). As I started getting closer to the magic number in Wyoming, I realized there was some not so difficult hunts I could do but did I really want that, or did I want a real sheep hunting experience? A few years ago, I had some heart issues and changed my lifestyle. I could not believe how much better I felt. Maybe I could do more than what my doctors said I could do? Then I got the family disease, gout. I changed my

diet and exercised even more.

It was then that I knew I had a good chance to draw unit two and maybe I could hunt a tough area like that. I did my research, there are several very good outfitters, but no one knew the sheep in that area better than Jimmy Owens. I sent Lost Creek Outfitters a deposit before the draw. 22 years of applying and I was going sheep hunting. I want to thank Rolling Bones Outfitters, Hunting Fool and Epic Outdoors for all helping me to get to this point.

Planning for hunt like this is half the fun. I went through lots of different gear to see what would work best for me. I would have spent less time and money if I had just used Jimmy's gear list to begin with. I got to see lots of new country while training in the Black Hills. It is amazing how having a sheep hunt as a goal can motivate a person. I did things that I was told I could never do with my injuries. A rigid exercise program and a good diet helped more than

most people would imagine.

The hunt started with me meeting Jimmy and his crew at his home outside Cody. He is located very close to the trailhead so a short drive the next morning had us headed up the mountain. I really enjoyed the ride into camp. Camp was set up quickly and we had a few hours to glass before opening morning. The easy part was over. The horses stayed at camp as the terrain prevented them from going further. I have hunted my whole life and I have never seen terrain like what we encountered. What looks like one mile is three times farther. Everything is loose, once the rocks start moving, they don't stop. The game must be used to hearing rocks roll down the mountain all day because they did not spook from all the racket. Luckily, we all dodged some large rollers.

There are sheep in these high bowls at 10,000 to 11,000 feet but it does not mean much if you cannot access them. In this country, I believe that most these rams die of old age. We spotted an accessible ram that I thought was the one. Jimmy said no, which meant a treacherous 3-hour hike to the next bowl to see what was there. On our first look into the new basin, we saw no sheep. At this point we needed to call it a day so we could get back to camp before dark. I told Jimmy I really could not go any further and I was going have a tough time making it back.

Then the only thing that could make you dig deep happened, in the bottom of the basin were two rams. One of them being the ram of my dreams, old and broomed. Jimmy said let's go kill that sheep and I did not have a second thought. We flew down the mountain. We all wanted to get within 300 yards but that did not happen. I got a great rest on a log with my pack as the old ram cooperated at 419 yards. I had been shooting my In-Rut 6.5 Creedmore every Friday all summer in all ranges and positions.





## By LM Jeff Olson

The 143 grain Hornady Precision ammo did the job with one shot.

It took over an hour to get to the ram and an hour to take pics and cut him up and then it was dark.

After much discussion, the vote was to head back to camp. The boys (I call them beasts) had 80 and 60 lb. packs. I carried 20 which was much more than my back could handle but after seeing what they were doing, there is no whining.

**It was a beautiful night and we took many breaks to enjoy the stars. You are never sure what you can really accomplish until you do it.**

We got back to camp at 1am, had the best pastrami sandwich I will ever have and went to bed. We had a little hiccup getting back to the trail head but all and all we were only a little beat up but safe. I

am grateful for the experience.

I really cannot thank Lost Creek Outfitters enough for this once in lifetime experience. They understood my disability, helped me dig deep and do what it takes to get the job done. It lived up to my life long dream of shooting a bighorn ram and I feel very lucky to have had the best people to do it with. This was a "real" sheep hunting experience

**Thanks Jimmy, Cam and Be-Jo!**





## BIG HORN HUNTING IS OUR PASSION



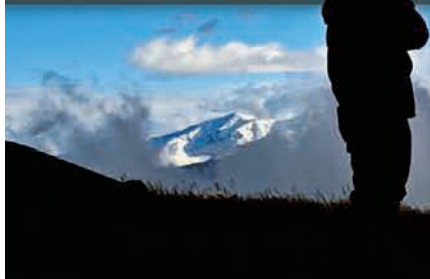
At Lost Creek Outfitters we offer guided hunts for rocky mountain big horn sheep, mountain goat, elk, mule deer, and antelope. We offer hunts in two locations, in Cody on the Shoshone Forest and on private land near Casper. Our mission is to maintain our commitment of being a small high quality, hunting and pack-trip, operation. We strive to be the best outfitters in the business, not 'just one of the good ones.' We truly value and cherish our clients and the great friends they become. We want their experience with us to be prized for a life time.

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# “Luck of the Draw”

Every June the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation holds an annual convention. June 3, 2017 was my first year attending as a Life Member, and the second year I had attended the WWSF convention. I remember sitting behind the checkout desk assisting Joni with entering auction items into Excel. My

wife was out in the silent auction area filling out paperwork on a rifle our son had just won in a youth raffle. I remember hearing my name called, but I was pre-occupied entering data into the computer. I honestly had no idea what I had just won. I had to ask why they had said my name. When I was informed of winning the Life Member incentive raffle for a 10-day, guided Mountain Goat hunt in British Columbia, Canada with Wicked River Outfitters, I was not sure

what to say. I was elated. I had never won at the convention before. Some might say it was beginner's luck!

The time came to start planning with Wicked River Outfitters to set up a hunt for 2018. Many of the dates were booked up for 2018 already, so the decision was made to push the hunt to September 2019. Amber

Booker, of Wicked River, kept in contact with me through the whole process making it easier to plan as the day came closer.

On August 29, 2019, myself and Scott Butler, who purchased a guided Mountain Goat hunt, loaded my truck and headed to Pink Mountain, British

Columbia. After a short flight we landed at the lodge, a cozy log cabin with all the amenities of home, except my wife. The scenery was unexplainably beautiful.

On the morning of September 2, 2019, we saddled the horses and rode 8 hours



Columbia. After 27 hours of driving 1,685 miles, we arrived in Pink Mountain. We got a night's rest at a recommended hotel. The next morning, we were met at the hotel, and drove to a tiny airstrip and boarded a Beaver bush plane owned by a local charter service that flies in hunters to Wicked River Outfitters. The plane was big enough for

3 people, gear, and horse feed. After a short flight we landed at the lodge, a cozy log cabin with all the amenities of home, except my wife. The scenery was unexplainably beautiful.

On the morning of September 2, 2019, we saddled the horses and rode 8 hours to spike camp, a canvas wall tent. The tent was warmed by a stove and provided comforts one would expect during a Mountain Goat hunt. September 3, 2019, Gramps, Booker, Scott, and I loaded the horses and headed on a 2-hour ride towards the rock cliffs to look for Mountain Goats. Once we found a Mountain Goat,



## By Pat Pace

we spotted and stalked from a long way away. The hike took us up steep terrain along the Gillaba Creek bed because the vegetation was tall and thick. The vegetation made it difficult to walk. We stopped at the bottom of a shale rock bowl looking up

kill, loaded it in our backpacks, and mounted the horses for a rainy ride out to spike camp. It continued to rain during the 2-hour ride back to camp, and all night long.

Back at camp Booker, Scott, Gramps, Simon, and I capped the "Billy." The teamwork

the WWSF for providing this opportunity for me to experience a guided trip in British Columbia. The Board Members that set up this hunt as well as all volunteer members are very helpful and friendly. The motto of the WWSF, "Putting and Keeping Kids &



towards a lone Mountain Goat. I settled down to take a shot, and "Bang On", I bagged my first goat.

After bagging my first goat it preceded to fall 150 yards down the shale rock cliff. I was concerned about what condition it would be in when I approached it, but thankfully the horns were intact, but the hide and face were a little roughed up. After documenting with some much needed pictures, we processed the Mountain Goat at the site of

by those in camp made the process easy and enjoyable.

A few days later, my hunting buddy and traveling partner tagged out on a "Billy after a long ride into the Puntang Creek area on horseback. We processed Scott's goat, and returned to camp, to cape it out the next day. The following days were full of rain, good food, great company, and beautiful terrain.

This trip was a once in a lifetime trip. I want to thank

Sheep on the Mountain," sets an example for individuals to support conservation, and to encourage youth to experience the outdoors.

**I also would like to thank Wicked River Outfitters for the hospitality, and for donating this hunt and many others in support of the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation and wildlife conservation.**



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](mailto:info@wyomingwildsheep.org).



LM Joe Kondelis and his nephew



LM Karen Sullivan



LMs Jim & Cindy Collins with their African Blue Duiker.

LMs Jim & Cindy Collins with a black rino they darted in Africa. It was not harmed.

# Member's Gallery

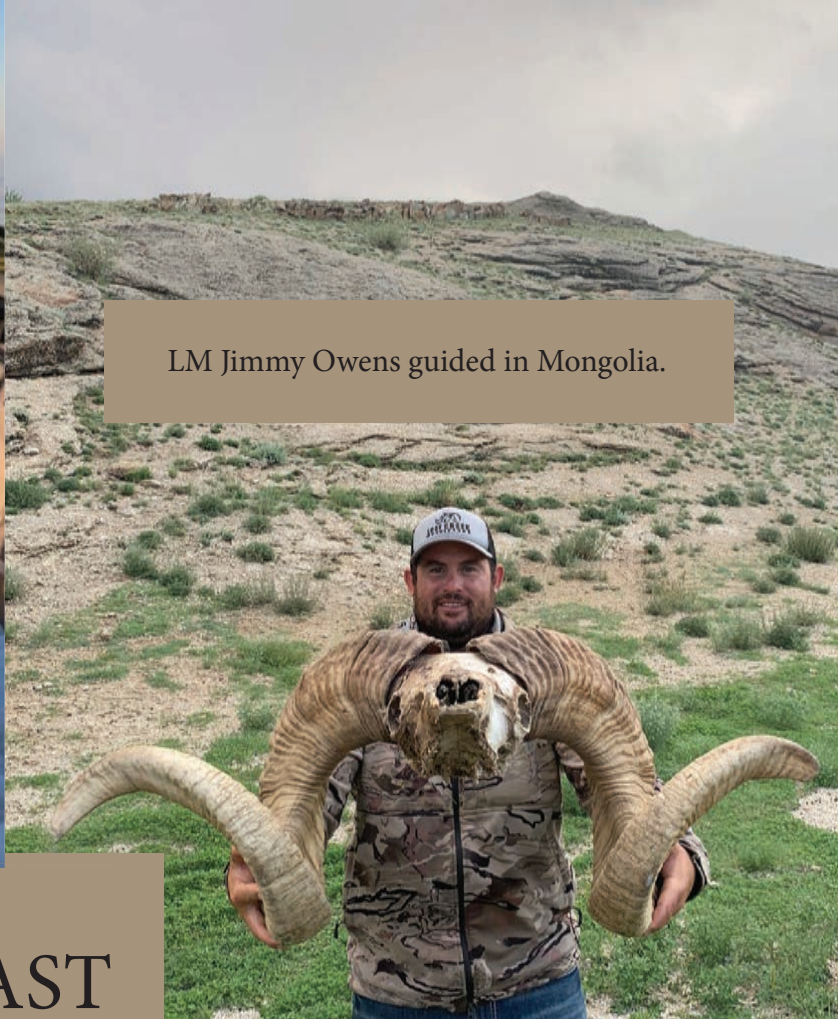
LM Kevin Wells  
Score - 362







LMs Mack & Joni Miller at the Summit of Mt. Hood, OR.



LM Jimmy Owens guided in Mongolia.

# BLAST FROM THE PAST

DO YOU KNOW THIS GAL? (Answer on Page 3)



Our First Lady, Juanita Eisenach, with a massive halibut.





LM Rocky  
Yardas with his  
Desert Sheep.  
He purchased  
the tag at our  
2018 banquet.



LM Don Perrien with his HA 12 ram  
taken after almost a month of hunting.



Nate Petersen, a guide for Ovis Outfitters,(L) and Zach  
Osborne helped LM Joe Kondelis(R) harvest this artic  
grizzly on the North Slope of the Brooks Range.





Jeff Schweighart with a hard earned HA 12 Ram. Look for his story in the Spring issue.



LM Chris Galloway(C) had the pleasure of hunting area 3 along with his son and son-in-law.



Jim and James Evans with a rare father/son double. Read their story in the Spring issue.



# Meet LM Karen Sullivan

# “From Swamp

“You’re crazy!” were the first words out of my mouth when Troy said he wanted to buy a house in Dubois, Wyoming.

We first visited Wyoming in 1995 with a 6-month-old and 7-year-old in tow. At that time, we visited the Hoback Junction

at LSU that same year.

Fast forward to 2010 when Troy’s son and daughter-in-law were hired to manage the CM Ranch in Dubois. We jumped at the chance to visit Wyoming again. The CM Ranch is a beautiful place and we had a wonderful time riding

horses, hiking and enjoying the incredible scenery. We were amazed by the beauty all around Dubois, the friendliness of the residents and the amount of public lands to explore. When we visited the town of Dubois, it felt like we had traveled back in time (in a good way). I remember walking near the Cowboy Café and telling Troy that Dubois felt like home. The next day, Troy met with a realtor and looked at a few houses in the area. I told him

at LSU. We sold our house, left many good friends and three of our four children behind and made the move to Dubois. I was able to teach online courses and Troy found things to keep himself busy. We took advantage of all the wonderful outdoor opportunities and made many new friends.

Recently we learned to kayak which was great fun until I flipped over in the Snake River. Troy and I have each harvested our first pronghorns and are both hoping for an elk this year. We still struggle with the art of fly-fishing but keep trying. We even learned to snowshoe and enjoy winter, to the surprise of many people. A couple of folks we met when we first moved here later told us that they never thought a couple from south Louisiana would make it in Dubois. We love that most people in Dubois are active and enjoy the outdoors so much. It is life-changing to be in a place where we can spend so much time outdoors with people willing to show us their favorite hiking trails and fishing spots (they aren’t so willing to share their favorite hunting areas though!).

It was while hiking with new friends that I learned about the National Bighorn Sheep Center. Two of them mentioned that they volunteered at the Sheep Center and really enjoyed it. Soon afterwards, Troy and I attended the Sheep Center’s annual meeting. I was quickly drawn in when Greg Anderson with Wyoming Game and Fish spoke about the pneumonia issue with our bighorn sheep. The next day, I visited the Center and asked the director, Sara Domek, if she needed more volunteers. Of course, she said yes, as all non-profit organizations could use more volunteers. When she and the board of directors found out about my background in education, they asked if I would be interested in working part-time as an education assistant in a position that had been partly funded by the Wyoming



Troy and Karen Sullivan along with NBSC ED Sara Domek

area of Wyoming and stayed at the Spotted Horse Ranch where Troy’s oldest son worked. It was an incredible trip and we instantly fell in love with Wyoming. We stayed there two more times with lots of tears shed each time we had to return to our lives in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Troy worked for various grain export companies in Louisiana, spending most of his career with ConAgra and ADM between Baton Rouge and New Orleans as operations manager. I earned my PhD in Microbiology from Louisiana State University in 2001 and started teaching

that it was completely crazy to think that we could buy a house in Dubois. We still had two kids living at home, one in college and one in high school, and we had no way to make a living in Dubois, so we couldn’t possibly just pick up and move across country. Troy had the wild idea to buy a “fixer-upper” and rent it out as a vacation rental except for the time we could spend there. Somehow, he made it work.

In 2015, our youngest son graduated from college, got a job and bought his own home so we felt like we were free to make some big life changes. Troy retired early and I resigned from my job



# ps and Gators to Mountains and Bighorns”

Wild Sheep Foundation. I jumped at the opportunity, quickly learned all that I could about bighorn sheep and soon began attending events like the WILD Festival in Jackson, the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation Youth Experience in Casper and the Wild Sheep Foundation Youth Experience in Reno. (Driving to and from Reno in the winter is not for the faint of heart! This Louisiana girl is not comfortable driving on ice and snow!) The events were great learning experiences for me and wonderful opportunities to teach students about bighorn sheep and hopefully inspire some of them to care about Wyoming wildlife and wild lands. In addition,

I started visiting schools with a traveling education trunk. The trunk contains many of the items students would see if they visited the center including a bighorn hide, skull, horns and leg. It is always thrilling for me to see the excitement in the student's faces when they first hold a ram horn or hoof. Many send sweet thank you notes relating the favorite thing they learned, and it is rewarding to read about what impressed them most. As my education trunk got bigger and heavier, Troy started coming with me to schools and events as manual labor. He said that he was happy loading and unloading but

he was not going to do any talking. Famous last words! At the 2018 Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation Youth Experience, Sara and I looked over at Troy and saw



him holding a ram skull and telling someone about the adaptations that protect the ram during dominance battles.

From then on, he has volunteered at most of our events and in many schools. In addition, he does the landscaping in the summer at the center. Troy and I have participated in several sheep captures with Wyoming Game and Fish and the University of Wyoming. What a special experience to be that close to an amazing animal and help with some of the research being conducted to help our dwindling

bighorn sheep population.

The NBSC hosted Camp Bighorn this summer at the beautiful G&F Whiskey Mountain Conservation Camp in Torrey Valley. It was a fun and exhausting week! We received a lot of positive feedback from the campers and their parents. Several parents said that their kids came home and taught them all about bighorn sheep, so I think we were successful in inspiring the next generation of ambassadors for wild sheep. We are looking forward to many more successful camps to come.

Currently we are fundraising for a classroom addition to the sheep center. It will be nice to no longer be crammed together like sardines when we host large groups. It will also allow us to offer more events without having to worry about our limited space.

Being part of the National Bighorn Sheep Center family has led to many wonderful opportunities for us to travel, meet people and pass on some of our knowledge and passion for bighorn sheep.

I joined the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation as a life member this year and am happy to be a part of such a wonderful organization that is putting kids and wild sheep on the mountain.

I am excited about the future of the NBSC with our growing education program and additional opportunities to partner with the Wild Sheep Foundation and Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation.

And, I thank Troy every day for his “crazy” idea of buying a house in Dubois! Wyoming Wild Sheep FLeonardo



# Water For Wildlife Partners with WY-WSF

## By Vickie Hutchison

Leonardo Da Vinci said it perfectly- "Water is the driving force of all nature." At the Water for Wildlife Foundation the mission is to preserve, protect and improve water resources for wildlife and wildlife habitat. The great state of Wyoming holds over 223 projects benefitting many species which were supported by the Water for Wildlife Foundation (WFWF). Water project designs include guzzlers, natural spring and artesian well improvements, restoration of wetland and marsh habitats, solar powered wells with tanks and river/stream enhancements.

Historically, the 501(c)3 nonprofit was started by the One-Shot Antelope Hunt Past Shooters in 1975 to support wildlife conservation. In addition to water and habitat projects, WFWF also has supported the Lander community with funding to help rebuild the Lander Community Center, restore the Middle Fork Popo Agie River Project and fund scholarships for college bound Fremont County high school seniors.

The newest contribution to the community is the completely renovated Water for Wildlife Center and Evans-Dahl Museum. The process of planning and building wildlife conservation exhibits has begun. Once the exhibits are in place, the center will offer an interactive, educational experience for all who visit to learn about wildlife conservation.

Water for Wildlife Foundation partners with many government and non-government agencies to accomplish its mission. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department works very closely with WFWF to evaluate every project proposal for effectiveness and best use of resources.

Since 2015, Water for Wildlife has also partnered with Wyoming Game and Fish to provide a joint internship program.

This hugely popular program brings in some of the brightest college students who aspire to work in conservation. Interns divide time between learning about all the roles of Wyoming Game and Fish and how a non-profit supports conservation. Upon completion, each intern has a unique perspective on how non-profits and conservation work together.

Every September the One-Shot Past Shooters Banquet and Water for Wildlife Auction is held at the Lander Community Center. The banquet is open to everyone and is a lively evening resulting in thousands of dollars for wildlife conservation.

Important to note is that Water for Wildlife is solely based in Lander, WY but the outreach and mission benefits all of Wyoming.

We feel honored to partner with the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation in bringing water and habitat improvements for wildlife in the beautiful state of Wyoming.

You are cordially invited to stop by the newly renovated Water for Wildlife Center at 545 Main Street in Lander, WY. We would be delighted to share with you even more about our mission.







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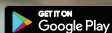
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# GRANT IN AID UPDATES

## Cabin Creek Conifer Removal Final Report to the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation

### Background and Objectives

Shoshone National Forest lands in the South Fork Shoshone River Valley provide crucial winter range for a portion of the Absaroka bighorn sheep herd. Natural encroachment of juniper, limber pine and Douglas fir on winter range has reduced forage quantity by outcompeting and shading grasses that provide forage for bighorn sheep, and inhibited secure use of bighorn sheep habitat by reducing the visibility of predators. Mechanical treatments were applied over 540 acres to reduce conifer cover and woody fuels adjacent to private property. This project was a cooperative effort between the Shoshone National Forest, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, and several nongovernmental partners, including the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation.

### Accomplishments

Conifers were hand-cut during summer, 2017 and 2018, by U.S. Forest Service fire crews and by a private contractor managed by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. Conifers were cut scattered, or cut and piled for burning. Approximately 40 acres of dense conifer within the original project area were not treated as proposed because terrain steepness precluded access by mastication machines. Conifers at these sites could not be cut, piled, and/or burned because slash depths on these sites would exceed allowable visual standards and because vegetation burning might predispose erosion and the invasion of weeds. Approximately 7 acres in one unit remain to be treated by Forest Service work crews in 2019. In addition, a new 150-acre treatment unit was recently added on the south portion of the project area, with work scheduled for 2019 and 2020. This unit was not in the original proposal.

### Acknowledgements

Funding for the project was provided by the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust Fund, the Governor's Big Game License Coalition, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department Habitat Trust Fund, and the U.S. Forest Service. Special thanks to Jerry Altermatt, Terrestrial Habitat Biologist with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Cody Region for providing expertise in project design and administering the project.



Before



After





## **“When Was The Last Time You Did Something For The First Time?” By LM Tammy Scott**

While driving to Evanston, Wyoming the words of Darius Ricker's song, “When was the last time you did something for the first time?” came on the air. Very appropriate.

I have always wanted a crossbow and I have always wanted to hunt moose. When I drew a Wyoming Moose tag, I figured this was the perfect time. My outfitter, Big Rack Outfitters, was cool with me hunting with it. Being that I'm primarily a rifle hunter, this was all new to me. Crossbow, bolts (aka arrows), broadheads, rail lube, string wax...things I had never given any thought to previously. My home state of Colorado only allows crossbow hunting during the rifle season which means there aren't many crossbows sold there. When you go online and try to do research you are quickly overwhelmed by the many choices. After talking with a lot of archery people and crossing my fingers, I bought a crossbow and started practicing in the backyard.

Weeks before the hunting season started, Big Rack Outfitters' founder, owner and main guide, Dustin, already had 4 bulls that he was watching.

Sunday, opening day, I had a small army for the hunting crew, Dustin, Dusty and Wacey. We saw a previously unseen small bull in the morning. Later in the afternoon, Kade and Breegan joined us and we saw a nice bull down in the river bottom. We decided to go after it as there were a lot of willows to help conceal us. Dustin and I climbed down the steep mountain side to the flats while leaving 12-year-old Breegan on top to guide us in with hand signals. We got to within 20 yards, set up the tripod and I was getting ready with my crossbow. Dustin was raising his arm with the range

finder as the bull took off with a start. What we couldn't see was that there was a female with a calf nearby and they had all taken off. It was exciting to be that close to such a large animal without a rifle.

Monday morning Dustin picked me up at the hotel at our usual 5:45 and we headed to the hunt area. While scouting, Dustin got a text from his deer hunter asking if we had gotten a bull yet because there was a large one near where he was hunting. We headed that way and saw the bull in a hay field on an old homestead. Dustin told me to get ready while he checked out the bull. Dustin came back and said we were going after it. He was excited by its size, but was trying to not get me too excited.

Dustin and I took off in the opposite direction of the bull, crossed a couple of fences and then headed down a fence line parallel to the bull. Dusty and Wacey stayed behind a barn watching the bull. We could hear but not see the sandhill cranes nested up in the field and calling as we walked through. As we hugged the fence line, Dustin would glance at the bull, which by this point was watching us. The bull started to slowly walk towards the river. Another glance told us the bull was now trotting quickly towards the river. The bull crossed the river and shortly after, so did we. The water was mid-calf deep. By this time Dusty, Wacey and Kade took off in their trucks towards the direction of where the bull was headed. They got to the top of a mountain and were guiding us in with hand signals. We hiked closer to the base of the mountain to try to keep our scent from going towards the bull and that's where Wacey joined us. Wacey pointed to where they had last seen the bull and explained that he was in the

thick willows. We headed that way.

As we stood at the edge of a section of the river, we knew we had to cross it to get closer to the bull or give up and turn around. The problem was that it wasn't going to be another shallow crossing. Dustin looked at me with an expression of “Are you game?” and I replied with “Let's go.” One never wants wet underwear, but after 20 years of applying for this moose tag, I was going to do whatever it took to get me a chance at the bull.

Checking with Dusty and Kade, they guided us in closer to the last seen location. We found that the bull was still in the real thick willows. Dustin kept inching closer trying to catch a glimpse at the bull while Wacey and I waited. Nothing. We had a choice to either wait him out, which since it was only 8:15 in the morning could mean a long day of waiting and maybe missing him sneak out, or chance going in after him. I'm not known to be timid, so I said to let's go in. Wacey waited while Dustin and I slowly crept into the willows, carefully placing our feet step by step. We couldn't see the bull, so kept going in deeper and deeper. The moose in this area are known for having white velvet patches on their antlers, and thankfully so, as this is what Dustin saw – the bull's white velvet. All we could see of the bull was part of his head and right shoulder. We got a little closer, Dustin put the tripod down and ranged him and said, “46 yards.” Since he looked a LOT closer than that, I whispered with shock, “WHAT?” and he replied “46 yards, drill him.”, which I did. Squeezing the trigger, the releasing of the bolt and the thwack of the bolt hitting its target all felt and sounded just like it did when I was practicing in my backyard. I quickly, as quickly as you can with a crossbow anyway,



reloaded. At the impact of the bolt, the moose took off to our right, then left, then down, all within less than 20 yards and a few seconds.

Success! My first crossbow hunt and my first moose!

Huge Thanks to my outfitter:  
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Details inside on page 13.