The RAMPAGE

"Ain't No Mountain High Enough" Page 39 Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation Fall 2020



IF IT'S NOT ONE THING, IT'S SOMETHING ELSE!

WILD SHEEP RESTORATION, CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT IS A COMPLEX AFFAIR, BUT THE RESULTS ARE WORTH IT.

WHAT WE DO

HABITAT:

- Prescribed Burning
- Water Development
- Noxious Weed Control
- Land Protection
- Domestic Sheep Grazing Allotment Retirements

INCREASING POPULATIONS:

- Trap & Transplant
- Population Surveys & Inventory
- Lamb Survival/Mortality
- Ecological Research

HERD HEALTH:

- Disease Surveillance
- Effective Separation from Domestic Sheep & Goats
- Habitat Connectivity
- Mitigating Disturbance/Stressors



JOIN THE WILD SHEEP FAMILY - \$45

WildSheepFoundation.org | 406.404.8750
 412 Pronghorn Trail | Bozeman, MT 59718 USA

"Putting and Keeping Wild Sheep on the Mountain Since 1977"





3538 COTTONWOOD AVE. | CODY,WY 82414 INFO@DEWEYWILDLIFE.COM | DEWEYWILDLIFE.COM | 307.587.4863

The **RAMPAGE** Fall 2020

Board of Directors:

Zach McDermott-President Scott Butler-Vice President Joni Miller-Treasurer Pat Pace-Secretary Kurt Eisenach-Past President James Owens Ryan Amundson Greg Pope Mack Miller Bruce Perryman John W. Harris Katie Cheesbrough-Executive Director

Contact us at:

info@www.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@www. wyomingwildsheep.org

Features

- 21 "My Seminoes Ram" by Bob Van de Rostyne
- 23 "Return of the Bighorns" by Steve Kilpatrick
- 39 "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" by Miles Fortner
- 43 "Persistence Pays Off!"
 by Ray Lozier, 2016 LM Incentive Winner
 47
 - "My 2020 Archery Bison Hunt" by Kurt Eisenach
 - "The Last Mooney Ram,(For Now)......" by Scott Mooney

Address Changes

56

Become a member to receive your own copy of the RamPage. Dues are \$40 per year or \$750 for a Life Membership. Subscribe at: https://www.wyomingwildsheep. org/store. aspx

Please send address changes to: info@www.wyomingwildsheep.org or by phone at (307) 213-0998 Advertising Rates Full-Page \$500 1/2-Page \$300 1/4-Page \$140 1/8-Page \$100

Donations netting WY-WSF >2500 entitle donor to a free full page ad in the next 2 issues of The Rampage. Ads must be received in camera ready format by 09/25 & 3/5!!

2020-2021 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec 4-5, 2020 Board/Membership Meeting Casper, WY

January 13-16, 2021 WSF Banquet/Convention Reno, NV

> June 4-5, 2021 Annual Convention Casper, WY

June 17-18, 2021 Wyoming Big Horn Sheep Summit Burgess Junction, WY

> June 24-26, 2021 WSF Chapter & Affiliates TBD

Wyoming WSF would like to thank, and recognize, Life Members who have signed up since the Spring 2020 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: <u>https://www.wyomingwildsheep.org/lifemembers.asp</u> If you would be interested in signing up or upgrading to Life Member or Ramshorn Society Life Membership status with WY-WSF, please visit our store or membership pages on the website.

We thank all of our past, current, and future Life and Ramshorn Society 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@www.wyomingwildsheep. org.

Blast from the Past - Ron Lockwood & Kevin Hurley

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

The Annual Banquet/ Convention slated for this December in Casper has been canceled. We hope to resume our annual fund raiser next June 4&5,2021 in Casper and hope to see you all there.

- 593 Mike Marshall
- 594 Brandon Flanigan
- 595 Fred Imler
- 596 Paul Wollenman
- 597 Mac Watson
- 598 Marc Zachary
- 599 Joshoa Gardner
- 600 Peter Eliason
- 601 Thomas Lane
- 602 Layne Fayville
- 603 Gail Gleason
- 604 Adam Millburn
- 605 Isaac Sims

Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation 2021 Youth Hunts Raffle 3 Prizes! 400 Tickets will be sold at \$50 each

Winners choice on the prizes.The contest is open to everyone and anyone can win but the two youths hunting must be born after October 1, 2003. Up to two adults may accompany the youths on their hunts. WY-WSF will assist the winners with their hunt planning and license applications. The drawing will be held on May 15, 2021 allowing time for the winners to apply for the 2021 hunting license. If the winners do not draw in 2021, they may hunt in 2022. All proceeds from this contest go towards Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation grant in aid project funding. These hunts are on private ranches and are fully donated by our members.

A 3 day private land youth antelope hunt. Hunt for 1 buck and 1 doe antelope on 14,000 acres of private land near Gillette, Wy. You will be guided by Miles and Leah on the family ranch. Tags for hunt are area 23 type 2 and type 6. These are generally available as leftover tags. Meals and lodging during hunt are the responsibility of the hunter. Dates to be arranged with Miles. The season runs Oct.1-31,2021.

oming



A 3 day youth whitetail deer hunt for one management buck and one doe. Buck is mature management buck determined by Donor. Residents may hunt with general license or Area 24-3. Non residents use Region Y general or Area 24- 3. Area 24-7 doe tags are available over the counter during the season. Meals and Lodging during hunt are the responsibility of hunter. Hunt is on Little Goose Ranch near Bighorn WY and will take place in Oct/Nov 2021.

Savage 2019 Axis XP in 6.5 Creedmore with Weaver 3-9 X 40mm Scope

Gun winner may pick up the firearm in Buffalo, WY or pay for shipment to the FFL of their choice

"Putting and Keeping Kids and Wild Sheep on the Mountain"

THE END OF A BIG CHAPTER BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR STEVE KILPATRICK

Approximately 5 years ago, the WY-WSF Board of Directors offered me the Executive Director position for this organization. I was not sure what was in store for me, but I knew the ride would be focused on a passion of mine and be adventurous. Well I was correct about the journey being passionate and adventuresome. However, I missed the mark on the level and intensity of the passion and adventure.

The commitment and passion of WY-WSF's members and Board of Directors has been nothing like I have previously experienced. You folks REALLY do care about kids and wild sheep - not only about the status of kids and wild sheep on the mountain, but you are sincerely concerned about their future as well. I see folks with limited financial resources dig deep into their pockets to help fund the future of Wyoming's wild sheep and youth. You do that because the future of youth and wild sheep is an integral part of your fabric and personal values. Moreover, I am honored to think that you trust WY-WSF to invest your financial and time support wisely.

Because of you, your passion and commitment I have continued to work at conserving wildlife and wild places into the future. But now it is time to go "revel" in some of the wildlife conservation work I have been involved in for 45 years, before I am too old climb in the saddle. There is a bucket list I need to attend to, and the mules and horses are all shoed up and ready to make checks on some of those items. It is time for new blood, new ideas, new skills, and renewed energy. Thus, I am excited about our new Ex Dr, Katie Cheesbrough. I know solid folks who know Katie well. They rate her as one of the best. We are lucky she chose us. However, regardless of her ability, she cannot do it ALL alone. I had an amazing Team which helped me grow the organization and raise more dollars for wild sheep. With Katie's leadership we have an excellent opportunity to grow even more. So, please giver her a call and offer some of your spare time and cash (307-399-4383).

While this has been a relatively short chapter in my life, it has been

the biggest in terms of fulfilling a dream of tangible wildlife (wild sheep) conservation. I got to be part of a team implementing actions with direct benefits to wild sheep and see the excitement on the faces of involved teammates. A real feeling of self-worth.

I thank all of you for enriching my live and especially for helping conserve wild sheep. Your passion is incredible. I will look forward to another chapter in my life which will involve wild sheep, but also focus on the ol bucket list.

Let us keep on "putting and keeping KIDS and WILD SHEEP on the mountain".







XKG Series was born from an idea to use the most realistic camo patterns and combine them with lightweight, technical fabrics to build comfortable, high-performing hunting gear at an affordable price. KINGSCAMO.COM/XKG-SERIES 833-889-8972

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY ZACH MCDERMOTT

One of human nature's greatest assets is its ability to improvise, adapt and overcome. And over the past 7 months, WY-WSF and its great membership contingent has proven that to hold true. In these challenging times, your board of directors has had to think out of the box and be creative with membership enhancement, fundraising, and projects to keep our mission going and growing.

At the December 2019 Winter Meeting, we unveiled the Ramshorn Society Life Membership. It is a step up from our regular Life Membership and entitles members to two life member incentive drawing tickets as well as entry into the drawing for a very special Weatherby rifle which will be awarded at the 2021 Annual banquet in June. We immediately had 29 volunteers step up for the new membership at that banquet. At publication time, we currently have 60 RHS members. These new RHS members have contributed nearly \$30,000 to our coffers with their donations being used solely for the purpose of funding grant in aid projects. Please consider joining today, we will need more help for the Spring 2021 grant in aid project funding.

With the cancellation of our 2019 summer event and the upcoming Grant In Aid cycle looming, shortfalls in fundraising stared us straight in the face. Through multiple conversations and outreach with the board and concerned members, we were approached by 2 RHS members with a fundraising challenge and matching funds. The challenge helped raise over \$100k! A great feat considering the state of the world. This allowed us to fund all the GIAs and projects the board felt critical to support at this time as well as keep some reserve for the Fall GIAs.

In August, we had an amazing turn out of volunteers for a guzzler replacement in the Seminoe Range near the Miracle Mile. The guzzler had been damaged by fire. We had participants from WY-WSF, WY G&F, the BLM, and the Forest Service. Thank you all for your time, hard work and dedication.

On October 1st, we welcomed Katie Cheesbrough as the new Executive Director. She replaces Steve Kilpatrick who retired after 5 years as the ED. Katie comes to us from WYO G&F where she served as a habitat biologist for over 6 years. She was heavily involved in the migration corridor strategies and has extensive experience in fundraising/grant writing. Her position allowed her to continually collaborate with multiple government agencies, ag groups, and other WY wildlife organizations. Please give Katie and her family a warm WY-WSF welcome.

As an organization, we would like to say thank you to Steve Kilpatrick for his service and dedication to WY-WSF, Bighorn Sheep and all wildlife. His passion for Putting and Keeping Kids and Wild Sheep on the Mountain has been unparalleled. Steve became life member #265 and the Ron Ball Award winner in 2007. He served on the Board of Directors from 2012-2014 and became the ED in 2015. His conservation efforts have also been recognized by RMEF on a national level. Steve has been highly active in hunting programs for Wounded Vets. Helping those who felt hunting was impossible and showing them, it is possible.

I would also like to thank Steve from a personal front. I started working with Steve on the RMEF Jackson Hole Chapter committee in 2006. Over the years, he educated me on the great importance of Wyoming's wildlife and habitat. He helped instill in me a burning passion for conservation especially Wild Sheep. In 2015, he called me and said "You are going to be on the WY-WSF board, I'm nominating you whether you like it or not and you are going to do it!" I am in this position today because of Steve. He has been a tremendous inspiration, mentor, and teacher to a lot of people and his passion has been contagious.

From not only me but the entire wildlife family, we are eternally grateful for Steve Kilpatrick's time, service and most importantly his great friendship. We say THANK YOU!



FEELTHE FULL EFELTHE FULL EFELTHE FULL EFELTHE FULL





Conservation Fund Update Fall 2020

321050 E - 4680845 N

These are the GPS Coordinates for a tribute plaque that was installed in the Ferris Mountains for a long time wild sheep advocate and friend, Ron Lockwood.

A lot of you knew Ron and joined us for this weekend of project and remembrance. A special thank you to Mike Murray with the Bureau of Land Management for the coordinating.

On Saturday August 8 we replaced an existing, but dilapidated guzzler with a new design, and one crew removed another not getting much use. We had a great evening meal on the banks of the Platte River, thanks to WY WSF, Joni Miller and John

Conservation Fund Update BY SCOTT BUTLER

Harris. Sunday the 9th we ventured up Miner Creek on the NE side of the Ferris Mtns and with the Lockwood family found the perfect location and installed a very nice tribute plaque. The plaque was built and donated by Jerry Galles, who also made the trip and utilized his expertise to install it.

You may be asking, if you have read this far, what this has to do with the WY WSF Conservation Fund?? Well, upon Ron's passing his family set up a memorial fund. Numerous donations to the fund soon netted us \$17,862. Not long after, the Lockwood family donated this money to our Conservation Fund. WOW what a donation!! I would like to thank Sam Lockwood and Steve Kilpatrick along with Mike Murray for the planning of this historic event.

343507 E – 4670584 N

These are GPS Coordinates for the Seminoe Mtn. Guzzler if you are in need of an adventure and want to check it out.

This fall your Board of Directors approved the Conservation Fund to support the donation of a Life Membership to the grandson of an outstanding RHS Life Member and longterm supporter. This member volunteered at the North Fork Stack Yard Project and realized that a top rail would be required to keep wild sheep out. So he is donating 140' of 3" top rail material to the Game and Fish Department in our name. This special donor also buys a Full Curl table at every banquet and has donated merchandise for our live and silent auctions for the every event over the last 9 years. In typical fashion, he also brought two new volunteers to work on this project and he never stops championing our chapter among friends and business associates.

A BIG THANK YOU TO: DALE SIMS,RHS #416 AND HIS WIFE, JACQUE, RHS #421!!

CONGRATULATIONS ISAAC SIMS, LM#605

<image>

Conservation Fund Total = \$318,169.21 GIAs funded = \$18,500 Life Memberships Awarded = 7

PUTTING AND KEEPING KIDS AND WILD SHEEP ON THE MOUNTAIN!

JOIN THE FOUNDATION'S RAMSHORN SOCIETY OF LIFE MEMBERSHIP!

The Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation has sponsored about Four Million dollars in Bighorn conservation projects since it's inception in 1983. Despite our efforts, current Bighorn sheep numbers are at a fraction of their historic numbers in Wyoming, and across the West. Bighorns in the Wyoming core native herd units have been declining since 2014 and the total of 2019 Bighorn sheep licenses issued were the lowest since 1957.

It is time for immediate action!

Our chapter has created a new level of life membership called the Ramshorn Society. Donations to the Ramshorn Society will be used to immediately fund grant in aid projects designed to stop this downward spiral with our Wyoming Bighorns.

New Ramshorn Society members will receive a donation form, name badge and may choose whether or not they would like to receive a plaque. Ramshorn Society members will receive TWO chances in the annual life member incentive drawing which is held at our annual life member breakfast in December 2020 (you must be present at the breakfast to win). This year's winner will receive a West Texas Aoudad hunt with High West Outfitters to be taken in the Fall of 2020 through the Spring of 2021.

Current Life members who upgrade to the Ramshorn Society will be charged \$500. New members can enroll in the Ramshorn Society for \$1250. Seniors (over 65) will cost \$1000.

Due to the generosity of Weatherby Firearms, Inc, the chapter is offering a chance to win a very special Weatherby Weathermark in 6.5 WBY RPM with one of a kind WY-WSF engraving to all who sign up and pay for Ramshorn Society Life Membership by 8 AM on Saturday, December 5, 2020. You do not need to be present to win the Weatherby drawing,

Please donate today by clicking on our website at: www. wyomingwildsheep.org/store, mail to P.O.Box 666 in Cody, WY 82414 or call Dean DiJenno at (307) 213-0998. Recurring payment options are also available for this membership.

Ramshorn Society Members

RAMSHORN SOCIETY

Join Today! Your membership will help us continue to provide Grant in Aid funding to advance our mission! Mack Watson Marc Zachary Jason Radakovich Leo Goss Cari Goss Craig Kling Travis Bomengen Miles Fortner Leah Fortner Roger Coguill Gary Roebling Larry McDermott Dan Marino Steve Kilpatrick Mike Pilch

Freddie Goetz Kevin Hurley Cole Benton Richard Lennington Robert Van De Rostyne Tad Giovanini Elaine Benton Mack Miller Daniel Hinz Robert Finn John Harris Joni Miller Scott Butler **Patrick Mooney** William Trapp **Diane DiJenno** Dean DiJenno **Chance Butler** Kurt Eisenach Scott Mooney **Mark Conrad Tera Butler Eric Johnson Ray Lozier James Rice Karen Lozier Greg Pope** William Dooley Pat Pace **Tanner Pace Danyelle Pace Rob Englot** Pat O'Neill Kay Giannola **Hale Krevcik** Zach McDermott **Candy McDermott Brett Kroaer James JR Wetzel Gary Butler Jo Butler** M.Shawn Nelson **Rocky Yardas Ricky Wilcox David Dybvig Dale Sims Jacque Sims Jerry Galles Chris Otto** Chris Fayville

PAST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by kurt eisenach

What a crazy year 2020 has turned out to be! I cannot count all the things that have turned our world upside down, but many of the important things are still the same.

The WILD SHEEP in Wyoming still need our help and your board is working hard to find new ways to raise funds and keep fulfilling our mission.

The board has elected a new president, Zach McDermot, and hired a new ED, Katie Chessbrough. You will get to know them more from reading their articles in this issue. I have stepped back a little but still serve on the board, happy and grateful to be a part of this fantastic organization.

I wish to thank all our committed members that worked so hard during the time I have been able to represent you as president and board member. I would urge any of you that have thought about getting more involved to take the leap.

My time as president has seen some successes and disappointments. Thanks for your trust in me! I have had an amazing group of mentors and counselors to help me along the way. Thank you, Jerry Galles and Kevin Hurley for the wisdom and encouragement. Thanks, Steve for helping a simple working man understand the world of biology and regulations of government red tape; Joni for explaining the intricacies of accounting and how you do the amazing job you do. Dean, what can I say, your passion and commitment to the chapter is incredible. Your work ethic is unmatched!

To the many others who have shared their passion, ideas, and energy for sheep, I will always be grateful.

The wild sheep world here in Wyoming is presently in a very troubling time and needs committed people to speak out loud and strong for our passion.

The threats from disease are increasing despite our best efforts. The work on the Whiskey and Teton sheep will continue until we find a solution. You should be proud of the effort to find solutions to the Frank Robbins domestic sheep issue. We have acted as a good Wyoming neighbor and looked for a workable solution. We have not given up and will continue to fight for wild sheep.

On the bright side, Wyoming's low elevation herds are doing very well. We need to redouble our efforts to find ways of expanding that success to other areas of the state. The funding partnerships with other chapters have grown and become a great asset to this chapter. We should look for more opportunities like these.

None of this has any chance of success without the support of our fantastic membership. Your help and commitment in any and all forms allows this chapter to lead the fight to 'Keep Kids and Wild Sheep on the Mountain'.



HARTMAN Ousdom-AXIDERMY Greg Hartman Owner

604 Coffeen Ave. Sheridan, WY 82801 (307) 672-0383 E-Mail: hartmantaxidermy@bresnan.net

INTRODUCING BOARD MEMBER BRUCE PERRYMAN

Bruce, age 60, is a 55 year resident of Wyoming. He graduated high school from Worland, Wyoming while growing up on a small ranch north of Tensleep, Wyoming. Bruce attended NWCC in Powell and received a ABS in Wildlife Management, Bruce then attended University of Wyoming and received a BS in Civil Engineering which lead to his 37 year ongoing career designing and constructing projects all across Wyoming. Bruce is a registered Professional Engineer and Land Surveyor in the State of Wyoming. Bruce is the Senior Principal and currently Vice President of 25 person engineering, surveying and planning consulting firm located in Cheyenne, Wyo. which he has been employed with for some 35 years.

Bruce has spent numerous days fishing and hunting along the west face of the Bighorn Mtns..

Bruce's passion for wild sheep stems from his first sheep tag in 1985. He was a novice and spent 20 days searching for a legal ram. Being unsuccessful, he strived to have the opportunity again. That chance came again in 1998. This time, accompanied with veteran sheep hunter mentors, he was successful in harvesting a fine Wyoming ram.

That experience ignited his passion to enhance wildlife resources and preserve our hunting heritage. Bruce has been involved with other local conservation chapters such as SCI, RMEF, DU, MDF and now WWSF.

Bruce has now been involved in over 12 sheep hunts and looks forward to another trip this coming October in Utah as he pursues a California Bighorn.

Bruce has served on a previous Big Game License Allocation Committee, been appointed to the Wyoming School Facilities Commission and is involved in numerous other community organizations.

Bruce resides in Cheyenne, Wyoming, has 3 daughters, Salli, Sady, Addison and 1 son, Cooper, plus his bird dog Sage. Bruce also owns and operates a small farming operation near Huntly, Wyo. Bruce enjoys spending time with his grandson, gardening, fishing, riding motorcycles, and spending time in Wyoming's wild places.

Plans & Goals:

While on the BOD, I plan to get involved with increasing the group's awareness to other sheep enthusiasts, which hopefully results in increasing our membership. I look forward to assisting with other fund raising efforts that the organization pursues and mostly try to be another advocate for keeping wild sheep on Wyoming's mountains.

















ning

2018 SUPER TAG BIGHORN SHEEP WINNER JASON PLATROSS



THE ULTIMATE

> Raffle winners must purchase any applicable licenses and/or stamps before hunting. Made possible by the Wyoming Legislature

APPLY ONLINE: WGFD.WYO.GOV/RAMPAGE

Super Tag tickets: \$10 | Super Tag Trifecta: \$30 WYOMING'S SUPER TAG RAFFLE OFFERS 10 SPECIES AND 11 CHANCES TO WIN

////

Deadline to apply is July 1, 2021

INCOMING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Katie Cheesbrough

Hello everyone, I would like to introduce myself as the new Executive Director of the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation. I could not be more excited to work for and with all of you to continue the amazing work you all do to support youth and wild sheep in Wyoming!

I've been familiar with WY-WSF, having worked in the natural resource and wildlife realm in Wyoming for many years. However, as I have become more familiar with this Chapter and its achievements, it's become clear to me what a truly exceptional and effective group this is and how fortunate I am to have been selected for this position. I had the opportunity to work with the Board and many members at the Seminoe Guzzler project this summer and I was overwhelmed with not only the level of participation, but also the passion you all have for wild sheep and this organization. I know that I will be trying to fill the shoes of the very accomplished Executive Directors who have served the Foundation before me and I hope I can continue with their excellent work, leaning on their expertise and knowledge to ensure our continued success. I am very grateful to Steve Kilpatrick for his guidance thus far and I hope, in between his bucket list adventures, that he will continue to share his time and wisdom with me and the Foundation as his skills and contributions have been invaluable to WY-WSF.

Without getting too far into the weeds, I'd like to share a little of my background to provide you an idea of who I am and what I might bring to this position. I have had the great fortune to grow up and recreate in Wyoming most of my life. Growing up in Laramie, I developed a love for the outdoors and a passion for wildlife that shaped my career. After receiving a bachelor's degree in Minnesota, I returned to Wyoming to pursue a Master's in Zoology & Physiology. I have a diverse work history with the U.S. Forest Service, non-profit organizations, and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. This work has included Polar Bear research in Alaska, American Marten research in the Sierra Nevada, rangeland monitoring in the Wyoming Range, wildlife work on the Thunder Basin National Grassland and Laramie Peak, Habitat work from the Red Desert to Pole Mountain, as well as mule deer and bighorn work in the Platte and Little Snake River Valleys. Most recently I spent almost seven years as a Habitat Biologist with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department in the Platte Valley.

My love for bighorn sheep stems from my time monitoring tall forb communities high up in the Wyoming Range where I developed a deep appreciation for the incredible places bighorn sheep live and inspire us to go. More recently, I've had the opportunity to help develop a bighorn sheep education program alongside other very dedicated Game and Fish Biologists and Jordan Seitz at the Encampment Schools and hope we can bring some of the ideas developed there to other schools around the state.

As a mom and someone who was inspired to work for wildlife at an early age, I have a huge interest in getting youth excited about the outdoors, hunting, and wildlife. The partnership the WY-WSF has developed with the National Bighorn Sheep center and your continued work with Camp Bighorn is so wonderful. Ensuring that the Foundation continues to sponsor youth activities and events is a huge priority for me. Additionally, as an outdoors woman, I'd love to help promote the continued involvement of our women members in WY-WSF and work with them to develop some programs and events that would help bring new women members to the Foundation.

No doubt that these are trying times for everyone, but certainly, the pandemic has created some significant challenges for fundraising. I am hoping that we can increase our Chapter's on line presence through social media and come up with some creative ways to engage new members and raise funds outside of banquets. I hope that it will not be too long before we can all get back to enjoying



each other's company and have more frequent informal events around the state as well. Given how tight things are economically for many of us, please know that contributions come in many forms and one thing we can use as a Foundation are the talents, time, and ideas of our diverse and passionate membership.

With all of that said, I'm looking forward to learning more about all of you and eager to know how I can best serve you as Executive Director. Please, don't hesitate to contact me, introduce yourselves and let me know if you have any thoughts on where you'd like to see the Foundation put their efforts, how you can help serve our mission, or just to chat about wild sheep. You can reach me at: katie@www.wyomingwildsheep.org or give me a call at 307-399-4383.



COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE



Hunts Offered

River raft and heli-assisted back pack hunts for:

- Alaska/Yukon Moose,
- Dall Sheep,
- Mountain Caribou,
- Wolf,
- Wolverine

GRIZ & GINGER TURNER are excited to offer exceptional service, with personal, high quality hunts in over 6,000 sq. mi. of PRISTINE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES WILDERNESS.



PO Box 58, Whitehorse, YT Y1A 5X9 867-332-RAVN(7286) | hunts@ravensthroat.com

www.ravensthroat.com



Dear Eastern Chapter WSF,

Three years ago We developed a partnership with you folks adopting a major Wyoming project/herds - the Devil's Canyon to Ferris Mtn.. trans locations and habitat improvements. We are excited to report that both the Devil's Canyon and Ferris Mtn.. herds are doing quite well because of your generous support. This year covid-19 threw a major kink in our fundraising with our early June banquet canceled. We had over \$150,000 in GIA needs for Wyoming's wild sheep. And, little to no dollars available! In times of need one often finds a friendly sturdy shoulder to lean on. Yes, we leaned on our dependable partner, the Eastern Chapter WSF. With just one phone call and a follow-up letter to our partners at the Easter Chapter WSF we were able to fund some of our high priority projects. Your Eastern Chapter WSF not only funded a guzzler for your adopted Ferris Mtn.. herd (\$10K), but also funded our youth outreach/education program at the National Bighorn Sheep Center (\$10K) AND radio uplinks for GPS radio collars statewide (\$10K)!!! If that not a perfect illustration of a true friendship/partnership, then I don't know what is. Thank you for providing those big shoulders to lean on! Please come to Wyoming and view your supported projects and adopted herds. We will have a place for you to hang your hat. With much appreciation,

Steve Kilpatrick Wyoming WSF Executive Director



Abaco Bahamas

JANICE CRONIN & BOB SUNDEEN 307-620-1946 / 307-217-1110 www.casuarinaseabreeze.com

"My Seminoes Ram" By: Bob Van De Rostyne

I have been a life member of the Wyoming WSF and the National WSF for many years. After applying for a Wyoming Bighorn Sheep tag since 1984, and in ten other states for 10-20 years each, it finally happened. In June 2019 I received some tantalizing e-mails congratulating me (or a member of my family) on drawing a tag. As a true Luddite I don't use a computer or own a cell phone, so late in the day I had my helper

check the Game and Fish website and confirm I had actually drawn a tag, for the Seminoe Mountains where I had seen sheep, helped build guzzlers and remove fencing. It really felt Karmic and the completion of the circle.

I knew scouting would be essential to success, so I made certain to make contact with former license holders and successful hunters at the June 2019 WY-WSF convention in Casper. Life Members Vic Dana from Rock Springs and Chris Otto from Rawlins were instrumental to my success. Both were extremely gracious and generous with their time and equipment, Vic drove from Rock

Springs early one Saturday A.M. and gave me a tour of most of the area on his ATV. I met Chris the next weekend at the Miracle Mile and he did the same on the Bennett Mountain side, as well as giving me maps with sheep sightings. I can't thank either one of them enough.

The very next weekend I went scouting on my own. After weeks of anticipation it was a real letdown to not see any sheep. I did see about 20-25 elk including a large bull using one of the guzzlers I had helped on. The next weekend, the same thing, No sheep. That weekend I saw 7 mule deer bucks in a group. One was very large. I was a little discouraged on the way home that Sunday night. I thought about it on the way out the next Saturday and decided on a different strategy. Rather than look at big areas for a couple hours from one spot in the morning and evening, I would keep moving all day, looking at as much of the area as possible each day. It paid off Saturday afternoon as I found sheep in a place I call Red Ridge. 11-13 rams were feeding and moving down On Sunday morning, get up find them again and watch until 10:00 – 11:00 AM and then head home. I also saw some very nice mule deer bucks as well as antelope bucks.

Finally it was opening weekend of archery season. I'm not too confident in my skills, so I decided that I would only take the right shot at less than 30 yards. I was in position slightly before dawn, but didn't find the sheep until about 8:00 AM, 16 rams in a group. Through weeks of



towards water. I watched them on and off until nearly dark, when they bedded against some trees at the base of a ridge. On Sunday morning I watched them get up and feed until out of sight about an hour later.

I was jubilant on the way back to Laramie that Sunday afternoon. I felt like I had an idea where to start looking the following weekend. It worked! I found the sheep within ¼ mile of where they were the previous Sunday. The next 4 weekends fell into a pattern, go out Saturday afternoon, get close to where I last saw them, and glass until I found them again. scouting, I'd observed and named the three largest rams. "The Pale One", notably for his larger body size, pale color, and full curl un-broomed horns. "Channel Horn" because of a large chunk missing from his right horn, and "Lesser" because he was smaller than the other two. I'd observed and seen a couple other large rams, but never more than once. All 3 named rams were in this group. I got into a good hiding spot between some junipers and a little cliff and waited. After 2 ¹/₂ hours

of 16 rams from 40-150 yards of me, the wind shifted and I backed out so as not to spook them.

My anticipation was high through the following week as Saturday was August 31st, the last day of archery season and Sunday was the first day of rifle season, As a weekend warrior I could also hunt Monday, Labor Day. Finally Saturday arrived and I got to the campground. Who do I see but Chris Otto and his gang of scouts watching 6 rams through a spotting scope. I grabbed my crossbow and got as close as I could, as night fell I watched them bed at the base of the ridge. With visions

of rams dancing in my head I didn't sleep too well. At 4:30 AM I got up and loaded my .50 caliber muzzle loader. I have harvested white tail and mule deer, elk and antelope, as well as turkeys with it. I feel very confident with this trusted friend. With great expectations I headed to where the rams were bedded the previous evening. As the sun rose and it got hotter and hotter, no sign of sheep anywhere. As 11:00 came and went and the mercury hit 90 degrees, the hopes and expectations hit zero. I'd drank nearly all my water and I was cooked. I headed back to my vehicle close to the water where I had cold drinks and more water. While I waded around in the lake to cool off, I observed more hunting activity in 30 minutes than I'd seen the entire time I was scouting put together. I become even more discouraged thinking all the activity had moved the sheep out of the area. After I got well cooled and rested I thought the situation through and I decided that the sheep were probably just tucked into some shady cool spot waiting for the heat to dissipate a little before feeding down to the water in the evening as they had been doing. About 4:00 PM I started back up the hill to get into a spot that overlooks 3 likely paths to water. I got up the hill a ways, not very far, I looked up and there were 2 sheep, one sickle horn and one mature ram. I froze and when they put their heads down to feed again, I dropped to the ground. Now that I was out of sight, I moved about 20 feet into a draw with brush on the edge to help with concealment.

I got out the range finder and binoculars and eased in to a gap in the brush and ranged the sheep at 247 yards and a bush about 130 yards straight ahead on the edge of the draw. I looked through the binoculars and decided that it was a nice mature ram, probably Lesser. I tried to decide if I was ready to shoot any ram because I was so discouraged with all the sudden pressure, or if this was the ram I wanted. I had really hoped to find Channel horn as I loved his chocolatey cape. I thought, "I'll make the stalk and if I get a good shot, I'll

decide then." I got down in the draw and moved in as quiet as I could. When I was just behind the bush I eased out and ranged him through the bush at 97 yards. He picked up his head and looked right at me, I froze, while he looked at me for what felt like forever. Finally he looked around and put his head down to feed again. I eased my gun through the bush and used it as a flimsy rest. I shot, and after the smoke cleared saw him go down with blood behind his left shoulder. I reloaded as I watched him lay his head down and not move. As I started walking up, he suddenly jumped up and ran off straight away from me at full speed! I panicked and thought "he's getting away!". I threw up the gun, centered his hind end in the cross hairs and shot. Through the smoke I saw him pile up. Under the smoke I watched him kick 3 times, all 4 feet, He never moved again. I was so excited, I ran up the rest of the way, as I checked to see if he was dead, I suddenly realized I hadn't reloaded again. He was dead. A lifetime of hoping for this moment had been fulfilled. I knelt and admired his horns, picked some of the grass he was eating, put it and a little tobacco (sacred

to the Sioux) in his mouth and recited my traditional harvest prayer to the Sioux hunting god Wakantanka. Then I thought "holy crap its hot, 92 degrees" and started skinning and boning, 2 luckily short and heavily loaded trips down to the vehicle later it was dark and I was

exhausted. Back to the camper to salt the hide, dinner and bed at 10:00 PM. A long and incredible day. A lifetime dream had been fulfilled.

Reflecting on the path from drawing the tag, to the ups and downs of scouting and hunting on the way home, I felt a little let down. I wasn't even sure how big he was. But the neighbor who helped me unload him, and the taxidermist I left him with both said "Wow" and the taxidermist rough scored him at 182-184. Then I was sure that all the parts had fallen into place at the end. Apparently I was destined to hunt solo for this sheep. Although I did most of the scouting and all of the hunting by myself, I was still dependent on the huge collective efforts of numerous people. The Wyoming Game and Fish for transplanting this herd, the volunteers who built guzzlers and took down fences, the BLM local office for funding the guzzlers, and most of all the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation for fulfilling their mission statement: putting and keeping KIDS and Wild Sheep on the mountain, Thank you! Bob Van De Rostyne



Bob(L) with Pres. Kurt in Reno for the 2020 WSF Sheep show.

Editors Note: We at WY-WSF are overjoyed that Bob was able to take this magnificent wild sheep. Bob is among our most loyal life members. He can be counted on to attend every meeting, project and even travel to Reno to work in our booth supporting our chapter. Well Done Bob!

"Return of the Bighorns" By: Steve <u>Kilpatrick, E.D.</u>

It is disheartening to think that bighorn numbers have dwindled to less than 5% of their historic abundance. Early explorers saw "flocks" of wild sheep too numerous to count while passing through parts of Wyoming. Today we count individuals, not herds or "flocks". And, they are so few, they are easy to count. We have lost even more, maybe over 1,000 individuals, in the past 3-5 years and the statewide estimate is down to

5,000 - 5,500 individuals. Sad. Many of our herds are challenged by issues like lethal pneumonia related pathogens originating from domestic sheep/ goats and accelerated backcountry recreation on winter ranges. Most herds are not doing the best, but we have a couple of herds which are trying to mimic history. Transplants from Montana (2006) and Oregon (2004) to Devil's Canvon located

on the NW side of the Bighorn Mtns. resulted in success. Bighorn numbers quickly exceeded the herd objective in Devil's Canyon and some were then trans located to the Ferris Mtns (2016-2018; n=89). The early-lambing and non-migratory bighorns have been an overwhelming success in the Ferris/Seminole Mtns. as well. Habitat improvements (guzzlers and prescribed burns) led by the Rawlins BLM office have been instrumental to that success. However, the captures, relocations and habitat improvements are EXPENSIVE, VERY EXPENSIVE! That's where we enter a fella by the name of Ron Lockwood. Ron was a former wildlife biologist for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department before he passed away about 5 years ago. While Ron was

a film

Ron's grandchildren with the plaque

near Minor Creek in the Ferris Mtns.

of dollars for wild sheep.

On August 9, 2020 we paid tribute to the "Return of the Bighorns" in the Ferris Mtns. and an individual that spent wayyy toooo much of his personal time raising conservation dollars for a wildlife species he cherished. Ron's entire family, from multiple states, and a host of friends, were present to attach a classy bronze plaque on a prominent rock near a recently installed wild sheep guzzler in the Ferris Mtns. The photo



In May 31, 1946, Joel Patimetr and his expediation party saw large "aroves of mountain heep four miles east of independence hock, Back then, bightow nitkep in Wytorning numbered in the tens of thousands, and maybe more. At that time, thene were an iterated wor million bightoms in the western U.S., Canada and Micclos. This number pede to 25,000 by 1960, with ont 2,500 left in Wyoming. Unregulated humfing, halfburg gradation and pathogen transmission from domestic sheep (leading to respiratory examonia) were the main reasons for their decline. Bightoms in the Ferris Mountains were virtually extinct.

Through passion and commitment of the Wyerning Wild Sheep Foundation, Rawlins BUM, Wyoning Game and Filh Department, and Individualis IIsa Ron Lockreeod, the Ferris Mountain bighems rebounded to a visible herd of orer 200 animats by 2015, Habitat controllions ware improved by widdline, prescribed Tires and puzzlers. anaplants from the Derli's Canyon herd in the Bighern Macmains occurred, starting 2015, Ranchem herer reinved domestic sheeps, reducing the Wreet of presentation related bighern die-offs. Hundreds of throusands of dollars were used to promote the started bighern die-offs. Hundreds of throusands of dollars were used to promote the started bighern die-offs. Hundreds of throusands of dollars were used to promote the started bighern die-offs.

success story would not have been possible without the passion for bighorn sheep femonstrated by the agencies, organizations and individuals like Ron Lockwood.

Wyoming

hunt. Ron used the sweat from his horse to style his and the horse's hair – a testimony to his flair for humor turn. Ron would be proud to know that his kids put his grandkids on the mountain where wild sheep lambs

on the

plaque

during

a sheep

was taken

a biologist, his foremost skill was raising dollars for wildlife through comedy and entertainment while on stage at banquets and fundraisers. He made folks laugh until they'd cry, all while pulling their last \$20 or \$100 bill out of their pocket and donating it to wildlife – especially wild sheep. He was instrumental in raising hundreds of thousands frolic and graze. Like the early explorers, he will be forever watching the "flocks" of wild sheep as they make their way to and from the Minor Creek guzzler – it's all about "putting and keeping KIDS and WILD SHEEP on the mountain".

Ron Lockwood with trusty guide, Kevin Hurley in 2002 HA-5.



RETURN OF THE BIGHORNS

On May 31, 1846, Joel Palmer and his expedition party saw large "droves" of mountain sheep four miles east of Independence Rock. Back then, bighorn sheep in Wyoming numbered in the tens of thousands, and maybe more. At that time, there were an estimated two million bighorns in the western U.S., Canada and Mexico. That number dropped to 25,000 by 1960, with only 2,500 left in Wyoming. Unregulated hunting, habitat degradation and pathogen transmission from domestic sheep (leading to respiratory pneumonia) were the main reasons for their decline. Bighorns in the Ferris Mountains were virtually extinct.

Through passion and commitment of the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation, Rawlins BLM, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, and individuals like Ron Lockwood, the Ferris Mountain bighorns rebounded to a viable herd of over 200 animals by 2018. Habitat conditions were improved by wildfires, prescribed fires and guzzlers. Transplants from the Devil's Canyon herd in the Bighorn Mountains occurred, starting in 2015. Ranchers have removed domestic sheep, reducing the threat of pneumoniarelated bighorn die-offs. Hundreds of thousands of dollars were used to promote the Return of the Bighorns.

This success story would not have been possible without the passion for bighorn sheep demonstrated by the agencies, organizations and individuals like Ron Lockwood.







SPECIALIZING IN CUSTOM SHEEP HORN Chandeliers, art and heplicas.

josh & jenny Taylor ~ 307.899.4553 or 4645 wychadkcountrydecor@gmail.com www.wyobadkcountrydecor.com



The Log Guys- Dale & Jacque Sims Phone: (307) 899-0470 Email:Wyominglogguys@yahoo.com Web: Wyominglogguys.net





2425 E. Yellowstone Highway Casper, Wyoming

307-234-6100 email: bardsign@wyombeam.com www.barsign.com



Provider of the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation's Annual "Banquet Knife'





Visit our Web Site - <u>press handbandlarbnives.cn</u> Email us for completed catalogue - heriogikassening ree



Ben C. Barto Barto Antler Knives 307-455-3272 barto@wyoming.com

PAGE 25



WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

5400 Bishop Blvd. Cheyenne, WY 82006 Phone: (307) 777-4600 Fax: (307) 777-4699 wgfd.wyo.gov

GOVERNOR MARK GORDON

DIRECTOR BRIAN R. NESVIK COMMISSIONERS PETER J. DUBE – President PATRICK CRANK – Vice President RALPH BROKAW GAY LYNN BYRD RICHARD LADWIG DAVID RAEL MIKE SCHMID

August 3, 2020

Dean DiJenno Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation P.O. Box 666 Cody, WY 82414

Dear Mr. DiJenno:

On behalf of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (Department), I would like to thank the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation for its support of the 2020 Wyoming Super Tag and Super Tag Ultimate Hunting Gear raffles.

This year, 102,495 Super Tag raffle tickets were sold generating \$1,345,710 for Wyoming wildlife conservation and big game management. This is a 15 percent increase over 2019. Since the first raffle in 2014, the Super Tag has raised nearly \$6.2 million and annual sales have more than doubled. Your contribution to the Super Tag in promoting the raffle is an important part of this success.

The need to diversify and expand revenue sources increases as conservation challenges grow. Revenue from the Super Tag goes to the Department's general fund and supports a range of programs including the Wyoming mule deer initiative, chronic wasting disease, hunting access, and hunter recruitment and retention.

Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation's support helps ensure a brighter future for Wyoming's wildlife and hunting heritage.

Thank you again for your generosity. We look forward to the possibility of working with you again in the future.

Sincerely, Brian R. Nesvik

Director

BN/gp

"Conserving Wildlife - Serving People"









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.

We are strictly a fair chase, legal operation who loves the wildlife and the opportunities we have to pursue them. We study and live with the game, we hunt and love sharing our experiences and knowledge with others.





LOST CREEK

JAMES (JIMMY) OWENS Licensed / Insured Outfitter Lic. #BG281 27 Jim Mtn. Dr., Cody, WY 82414 • (307) 527-6251 Iostcreekoutfitters307@gmail.com

www.lostcreekoutfitters.com





SUPPORTING ON THE GROUND PROJECTS TO STRENGTHEN WYOMING'S WILDLIFE

INCLUDING:

- Wildlife Friendly Fence Conversion at the Red Rim Grizzly WHMA
- Dry Piney Wildlife Crossing project
- I-25 Kaycee to Buffalo Wildlife Crossing project
- Expanding the Access YES program
- Aquatic Invasive Species prevention and detection
- Inspire a Kid (providing opportunities for youth to engage with the great outdoors)

thewyldlifefund.org | 307 • 316 • 3863 | All gifts are tax deductible! 👔 🖸



Mid March found our team excited at the edge of the Torrey Valley meadow, awaiting the sound of the helicopter returning with the first ewe. The National Bighorn Sheep Center had coordinated a great group of volunteers including local Dubois residents, our new Summer Intern and Dubois High School graduating senior Kellyn Chander and an additional 15 students from Brady Samuelson's middle school class (WY WSF's 2018 Teacher of the Year Award-Winner). We had gathered this group together to participate in and experience first-hand this important research work underway with the Whiskey Mountain bighorn sheep herd. Alongside our partners and friends with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and the University of Wyoming's research team, we were diving deep into the world of wild sheep disease research and monitoring (part of the ongoing Summer Nutrition Lamb Survival Research work underway with the University of Wyoming, funded by the WY WSF). Little did we know how much our world would change within days as a different disease (Covid 19) brought a "new normal" to our functioning as an organization, a team and a community.

Since this time, all of us at the National Bighorn Sheep Center have adapted. We had to shut our Center doors to visitors from mid-March through early June. Staff worked remotely or rotated schedules at the office. All of our scheduled tours, with both student groups and adult tour groups were canceled through the summer, and we faced the serious financial challenges associated with no visitors, no gift shop sales and the new financial reality confronted by many of our generous donors and members. But early on in this crisis, our team of staff, board members and volunteers stepped up. Our Education Manager Karen Sullivan created an entirely new platform of education programs using on line tools to reach and serve teachers, students and others now learning from home. She created and updated a new YouTube

"2020 Update" By Sara Domek

channel rich with educational videos that teachers and students put to use in learning about bighorn sheep, with over 570 views. Karen and our new Education Assistant Cindy Jackelyn added a huge list of virtual offerings on our website about wild sheep and other wildlife topics, and we expanded our outreach to include the Wyoming Public Broadcasting network, partners with Teton Science Schools and even worked with youth through our various



Facebook Live educational events, reaching over 4,370 people through these outreach efforts. We carefully examined how to reopen safely, and we implemented new visitation policies when we did reopen our doors in mid June. Our special events calendar shifted, with programs such as the iNaturalist "Dubois Invasive Species Watch" and "Impacts of Recreation on Wildlife" becoming virtual zoom events. Summertime outdoor events



like our annual Birthday Party and Sheep Trap Trek were carefully planned to ensure participant's safety. In August, our education team carefully planned and carried out a successful three-day "Camp Bighorn" day camp for 12 youth participants at the Whiskey Mountain Conservation Camp in Torrey Valley. Throughout this crisis, we have taken advantage of the silver linings of these changes. Our audience has expanded through the ability to offer virtual programming, enabling participants from a truly "national" audience to engage with our organization. We have also recognized the value of our core supporters and partners, including the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation, to enable our work to continue to be successful in our outreach and education programs. Additionally, we have learned new technologies and engagement opportunities that will continue to serve our organization and our education partners like WY WSF in the years ahead. Our new bighorn classroom fundraising efforts have continued, with a focus on the need for this important space for everexpanding future education offerings. As we look ahead to this autumn and the winter months ahead, we are prepared to continue our focus on our mission: educating people about bighorn sheep and the conservation of wildlife and wild lands. Our education team is developing new programs and offerings for teachers and students throughout Wyoming and beyond. We will continue to work to educate and share inspiring wildlife conservation outreach programs for our community, both in person and on line. Our resiliency as an organization to continue this work is due to our members, donors and partners stepping up to support our mission. With this continued support, we will continue to deliver engaging and inspiring programs to share the ever-critical message of conservation near and far.



Bighorn Sheep Nutrition and Disease Summer 2020 Update By Brittany Wagler, Rachel Smiley, Kevin Monteith

We are wrapping up our 2nd summer field season in the Whiskey and Jackson herds. This year we had a bare bones crew because of COVIDrelated restrictions; however, we are grateful to be able to continue our work. Thanks to the generosity and dedication of our shop mates and core collaborators, we captured 20 lambs (11 in Whiskey and 9 in Jackson). Consistent with our findings last year, causes of mortality such as predation, abandonment, and accidents occur within the first two weeks of life. Later in the summer, pneumonia has been the primary cause of mortality, though we have not seen any pneumonia mortalities in the Jackson herd. As of August 15th, there are six remaining lambs in the Jackson herd and one in Whiskey.

At the end of lambing last year, we wondered if we would see fidelity to birth sites in bighorn sheep as we do in mule deer. A few ewes gave birth in similar areas as last year, though not in the exact same spots. One ewe gave birth within 100 meters of where she gave birth last year, but most ewes gave birth farther away from their previous years birth site. Two ewes that gave birth near Red Creek in 2019 gave birth on Goat Flat and near Downs Lake this year - a difference of 12 miles and 5500' of elevation gain between birth sites. We are very thankful to Bugs, Hootch, Silas, and their fearless leader, Steve Kilpatrick, for packing us up to Goat Flat on a split second's notice to attempt some of these deeper lamb captures. One Jackson ewe did the opposite. Last year she gave birth in the mountains overlooking Granite Creek but this year gave birth near the Gros Ventre road in the Grey Hills, which is her winter range, 14 miles away from last year's birth site. This leaves us asking what factors drive bighorn sheep migrations and timing of birth-a topic we hope to explore in more

detail in the future.

We are continuing biannual adult captures, habitat assessments, and monitoring lamb survival as we work to understand the disparity in population performance of bighorn sheep infected with pneumonia. 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, Wyoming Wildlife/Livestock Disease Research Partnership, and the Teton Conservation District, our team will continue to work towards identifying connections between nutrition and disease in bighorn sheep to seek possible solutions to aid in keeping sheep on the mountain.













GRANT IN AID UPDATES

WY-WSF Assists G&F with Stack Yard Construction in the Cody Area.

Wyoming Game and Fish Cody Wildlife Biologist Tony Mong explains why this stack yard was constructed.

"This stack yard (high fence) will decrease the potential for bighorn sheep in the area to congregate on a concentrated food source. This will help to decrease the potential for the transmission of disease among those sheep."

With the cooperation of a local landowner and hard work from the chapter volunteers and G&F employees working on Sunday, the project became a reality.

This stack yard sits virtually on the Forest Service boundary on the North Fork of the Shoshoni river near Wapiti, WY. According to the landowner, up to 100 wild sheep have spent their winters in his hay stack for years. It is our hope that this project will lessen the risk of disease transmission among HA-2 and HA-3 wild sheep.

The WGFD volunteers were: Skyler Gerrity, Travis Crane, Corey Class and Tony Mong and Corey's son Logan Class also was there.

WY-WSF volunteers included: Tuffy Sims, Rick Dye, Dave Bell, Dan Hinz, Steve Brock, Jeff Brock and Dean DiJenno.
AZYRE

Technical apparel, designed for women, by women.

www.azyregear.com outerwear ~ insulation ~ baselayer





PAGE 37

"RECORD AFTERNOON AT SCHOOL" By Jordan Seitz

The first "Sheep Hike" of the year for my Encampment classes is always a special one. We've been at it long enough now that many incoming students just expect to go, and others look forward to this for years because they hear about it from an older sibling. For some students, this is their first glassing experience, their first bighorn sheep sighting, or even their first real hike. In late September we met up with G&F biologist Teal Cufaude, had a quick lesson about interstate game tags while she tagged a deadhead moose, and then headed up into the hills above our school. Blue skies, temporarily clear of smoke, gave us excellent glassing conditions. Thanks to a CCSD#2 Recreation Board grant, and a generous discount from Maven Outdoor Equipment Company, my students are now fully outfitted with quality optics. This is a serious game changer for long distance viewing. With good binoculars, everyone could clearly pick apart distant hillsides and tell the difference between a pronghorn and a bighorn. Then our premium spotting scopes helped us determine age and gender, which Teal recorded. By the end of the trip we'd spotted four different groups of sheep, a class record! While one group was glimpsed with a mix of unknowns, we confirmed the other three groups contained 8 young rams, 17 ewes, and 9 lambs. Of the ewes, 8 were wearing GPS collars, and it was interesting to see the sun reflect off them just like a distant signal mirror. Hiking around, we looked for travel corridors and frequently visited areas, and started to discuss where we could place trail cameras to help monitor the bighorn sheep population in the future. What a great way to spend the afternoon at school!





"Ain't No Mountain High Enough" By: RHS Life Member Miles Fortner

side from the hunt itself, articulating a hunt of a lifetime is one of the hardest challenges. I was fortunate to be able to hunt aside my father, Bert Fortner, every step of the way on his lifetime hunt this year.

This hunt really started 7 months earlier in February, when my dad was walking into Anschutz Medical Campus at the University of Colorado. He was transitioning from a standard chemotherapy into a more aggressive month-long Chemotherapy and stem cell transplant treatment to help battle bone cancer, he was diagnosed with one year prior.

In the many consults, I had an opportunity to ask the doctor if he might be able to hunt this September. The doctor gave a response of, "If everything goes well and he works hard, then hopefully". For me that was a green light and I convinced dad to apply for Bighorn sheep. He was behind on points, due to life circumstance, and didn't think he would draw anyways. But that magical day in May rolled around. As texts with results are being exchanged, the word every sports person hopes to see popped up, "Successful". I called my dad to congratulate him and the first words I heard were, "Oh Sh#*!"

At this point in his recovery, he was just able to get outside for an hour, followed by a 4-hour nap. He was just starting to regrow some hair, and walked with a shuffled gait due to the neuropathy. One thing about my dad is no matter how bad things were, he always saddles up.

The next three months were like watching a "Rocky" movie transformation. With a big goal, he powered through the pain, neuropathy, and all the other effects of chemotherapy, and never griped about it once. As with most health conditions, determination and dedication makes all the difference in the world and I truly believe this tag caused the urgency to get better faster.

I knew this was going to be a hunt that would not be good to do alone. I asked our great friend and outfitter, Mead Dominick with 7D Outfitters, to hunt with us and he graciously made time to guide us. Wanting to pull as much weight as I could, I spent several weekends with good friends scouting and finding rams, trails, and answers to all the many questions hunters have about hunting new areas. Unfortunately, I had an involuntary dismount from my horse and broke my forearm so that slowed me down a bit. I'm thankful for good friends, Spencer Strike and Matt Vercimak, who helped carry the load of a one-armed man. Though the summer we were able to find a band of mature

> rams and followed them throughout the summer, only to have them become ghosts 3 days before the opening day.

Dad was sore and tired after a half a day's ride in to camp so dad and I stayed at camp the first day for him to rest up while Meade and Spencer went scouting. After a ram-less day scouting, and a storm moving in the next day, the tone around camp that night was a little dull. The next morning, we decided dad was going to hold the camp down while we went out scouting for the morning before the



storm hit. As the morning progressed the storm seemed to be mostly clouds with some snowflakes, so Spencer and myself split from Meade and headed down a ridge a few miles to check out some newer country. After several miles we finally found the rams that we had been watching that summer, the afternoon of the 31st, hidden in a little pocket 4 miles from where we had last seen them. It produced a massive feeling of hope, and relief as the season was so close. That hope was quickly suppressed as the clouds with a little snow became a socked in snow storm. We had chosen to walk that day, because the terrain was tough on the horses and we wanted the horses to last a long as possible. It was a long 7 miles walk back to camp.

The next morning, we saddled our stock and began our 1500ft ascent up hell's half acre of rocks. Dad was muttering under his breathe all sorts of things and I quickly realized we had better seal the deal as soon as possible, because I wasn't sure how many days he could take. As we approached the hidden pocket the rams were in, I prayed we could get it done. We located the bedded rams at 1200 yards, and were able to sneak to 600. They were no longer in sight, but we knew they had to come out of this crevasse they were bedded in. Now the waiting game began. Hours slipped by and as the evening approached, we knew we had to make a move.



We decided to facilitate the process by shooting the rock wall behind the rams. Dad shot the rock wall. Nothing. Dad sent a second-round smashing into the rock wall and after 5 minutes the lead ram poked his head out to see what the commotion was about. The shot would have been 650 yards. That was outside of the comfort zone for dad. Then the ram disappeared back into the rocks. Dad cracked off another round into the rock wall and rams came boiling out the rock crevasse. Not knowing where the shot came from the rams ran straight at us and the lead ram stopped at 450 yards. The ram had stopped for a split second and dad touched the trigger off. Meade



and I were both shocked at the sudden shot and the ram crumpled before our eyes.

Many will never know the emotional roller coaster of a ram hunt until they have been on one and the emotions that flood everyone involved in the hunt are impossible to describe. Especially to someone who watched the leader of the family wounded to a disease, recover and fight to accomplish a lifelong dream.

We all got back to camp at 11:30 that night, exhausted and wore out. It was a sheep hunt. As we were sitting in the tent reliving the experience, I realized I was in the presence of giants. Truly some of Wyoming's toughest folks were in that tent. It made me reflect about all the tough people we have in our community of the Wild Sheep Foundation and how everyone's generosity and contributions both with time and financial commitments, make moments like this happen.

I'm especially grateful for the Good Lord's blessings, Meade and Andrea Dominick for their selfless friendship, generosity and hunting expertise. I'm also extremely grateful for Spencer Strike and Matt Vercimak who helped scout, spot, pack and overall grind through the process. I'm not sure how many more hunts I'll be able to do with my dad, but as a fellow hunter, I'm grateful for all of you reading this that made this hunt happen.



THE CONTEST IS OPEN TO EVERYONE. DRAWING WILL BE HELD ON JUNE 5, 2021 AT THE WYOMING WILD SHEEP CONVENTION IN CASPER, WY. YOU NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN

> SSO PER TICKET ONLY 360 SOLD









KIMBER EVO SP STAINLESS 9MM



.280 AI

WEATHERBY CAMILLA UL



TO ORDER TICKETS ONLINE; <u>WWW.WYOMINGWILDSHEEPORG</u>, MUST BE 21 TO PARTICIPATE AND PASS FFL BACKGROUND CHECK. SHIPPING IS WINNER'S RESPONSIBILITY. WINNERS MUST BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE THESE ITEMS AT THEIR LOCATION. EMAIL: **INFO@WYOMINGWILDSHEEP.ORG**, PHONE: (307) 213-0998, MAIL; WY-WSF, P.O.BOX 666, CODY, WY. 82414

\$6200 IN CUNS

PAGE 41

"A New Watering Hole for the Seminoe Bighorns" By Steve Kilpatrick

Dirt was a flying and shovels and pickaxes were a swinging on August 8, 2020 in the Seminoe Mountains above the Miracle Mile. Approximately 25 WY-WSF members, harboring a passion for manual labor and wild sheep, showed up to install a new guzzler – watering hole – for bighorns and other wild critters.

Participants arrived at the Miracle Mile Friday evening to "grease" their shovels, bars, pickaxes and minds with liquid refreshments and fond memories of bighorn experiences. The passion for wild sheep oozed from the fabric of all attending. Memories of hunts, photographing, prior guzzler instillations and all other aspects of wild sheep were freely exchanged.

The next morning came early as Mike Murry (Rawlings BLM), guided us to a location high above Kortes Dam reservoir. The objective was to remove two previously installed, 1980's, guzzlers which were currently nonfictional. One would be replaced now and the second one next year. This is one of many habitat enhancements projects which the Rawlings BLM has implemented for wild sheep in the Seminoe and Ferris Mountains in recent years. Additionally, the WY Game and Fish Dept. has recently trans located approximately 70 bighorns for the Devil's Canyon area in the Bighorn Mtns. to the Ferris Mtns. This herd is doing quite well and a recent habitat evaluation by the University of Wyoming indicated the Ferris Mtns. could in fact hold more bighorns. Moreover, the WY Game and Fish Department Commission recently approved an increase in the herd's trend count. While bighorn numbers statewide are down, the Ferris/ Seminoe herd is doing quite well!

The 1980's guzzlers had been damaged from previous wildfires, had a rather small collection surface, and had openings too small for antler critters to drink - i.e. large elk. The smaller openings probably discouraged other wild ungulates from drinking as well. Volunteers removed the two older guzzlers and replace one with modern technology and equipment. The new collection apron was large - 75-100 ft square - and held down by "a lot" of rocks. A pipe drained the collection apron into a 1,000 gal holding tank with a large opening for drinkers. A much better system.

Guzzlers are beneficial in that they provide water sources which are more evenly distributed across the landscape. Thus, critters do not have to climb great distances up and down mountain slopes to water up. This results in less physical stress to the individuals and provides a more even distribution of animals and even utilization of valuable forage resources. Evenly distributed water sources also serve to expand the distribution of bighorns and other wildlife. Reducing the travel distance to water sources and increasing the number of water sources could also reduce the incidence of predation. The benefits are numerous, and many states have used guzzlers to enhance bighorn numbers and distribution – especially the SW dryer states.

After a day's hard work, the volunteers retreated to the Miracle Mile shoreline for more liquid refreshments, memory rehashing and story swapping. Supper was provided by the WY-WSF. Mack and Joni Miller organized and purchased the food, plates, utensils etc. John Harris was the head cook. Hat's off to these folks!

In closing, I would first like to extend a sincere thanks to Mike Murry, Chris Otto, and the folks at the Rawlings BLM office. They have done, and continue to do, exemplary work directed towards conservation of the Ferris-Seminoe Bighorn Herd. Explorer Stuart with his Astorians in 1812, saw "flocks of bighorns too numerous to count" in this area. I believe Mike and Chris have a similar vision for the Ferris-Seminoe herd!!

Secondly, I would like to thank the volunteers (some from out of state) who made time in their busy schedules to assist with the guzzler weekend. Lastly, the BLM has materials for another guzzler instillation next summer. If you wish to have a rewarding and exemplary social experience, please plan on attending. Watch for announcements.



Guzzler Construction- Aug 8,2020 Volunteers "Persistence Pays Off!" Steve Loose (FS) By Ray Lozier

Steve Loose (FS) Mike Murry (BLM) **Kylie Sinclair** Samantha Worden Nate Rykerd Craig Kling Ryan Amundson **Gary Butler** Jo Butler Scott Butler Katie Cheesbrough Mark Conrad Jake Harvey Joni Miller **Mack Miller** Kurt Eisenach **Steve Kilpatrick Bruce Perryman** Alan Higham **Bob Van De Rortyne** Zach McDermott **Kevin Hurley** Ann Allard Sam Lockwood John Harris

This dream hunt started in 2016 at the Wyoming Wild Sheep banquet in Casper, Wyoming. This hunt was the first hunt to be won by a life member attending the banquet that year. The Dall Sheep hunt was in part donated by Joe Letarte and Alaska Wilderness Enterprises.

Karen and I attended that banquet with the dream of winning such a hunt. The drawing for the Alaskan Dall Sheep Hunt was the last item in the banquet catalog for the evening. All the life members with their name in the barrel were awaiting this drawing and the time had come.

When the ticket was handed to the MC for the evening one could only hope he was going to read their name. "And the winner of the Alaskan Dall Sheep hunt is Karen Lozier." I looked at Karen and shouted "you just won that hunt." As Karen made her way to the stage, words can not express the excitement in my mind. Once on stage, the MC asked her to say something, Karen looked my way and said "I am giving this hunt to my husband, Ray Lozier for his 50th birthday."

In what seemed to be no time at all Karen and I were heading to Alaska on our first Dalls Sheep hunt. We arrived in Fairbanks, Alaska and were greeted by Joes wife, Victoria and then transported to a small air strip for the Cub shuttle to the hunting camp in the Alaskan Range. Once Karen and I were both at the base camp we reorganized our gear and along with our guide Andy headed to the spike camp about five miles down river. Arriving at the spike camp we set up the tents and awaited for daylight the next morning, the hunt was about to begin. All I could think about was that this is a hunt of a life time. Karen, I and Andy spent the next ten days hiking, looking through the binoculars at the most amazing country seeing Sheep, Grizzly Bear, Moose and at the end of the ten days we were never able to locate a legal ram. You can only imagine the thoughts going through our minds.

The adventure was greater than we had ever thought and as we all know, it is not about the harvesting it is the adventure that keeps us coming back.

After several long conversations with Joe at Alaska Wilderness Enterprises, he agreed to have me back for another attempt at harvesting an Alaskan Dall Sheep in 2020. After the last trip I had put this hunt in the back of my mind knowing that it would be several years away. But before I knew it,it was August of 2020 and the time had come and off to Alaska, and I was in pursuit of the Alaskan Dalls Sheep again. The trip was a bit different this time as Covid-19 restrictions were in place, but after a little extra effort on my part I made it to Fairbanks.

The next day I was greeted by Joe Letarte and off to the air strip we were to make the flight into the Alaska Range. The shuttle flight was amazing and the pilot made landing on the gravel bar look easy. There I was greeted by the Alaska Wilderness Enterprises gang and my guide, Jeff Berg. That evening was spent in the wall tent at the main camp with plans made to hunt our way about six and a half miles up river to a spike camp the next morning. On day one of the hunt we awoke to a lot of clouds and rain. After a well prepared breakfast we were off. Jeff, I and Ethan, the packer hunting our way to the spike camp. There were several small rams spotted on the hike to the spike camp on the first day but nothing large enough to make a stalk on. Arriving at the spike

camp we spent several hours looking for the shooter ram but no luck. Day two we put our packs back on and headed further up river with the sun showing through the clouds every now and then, it made for a great hike. Spending most of the morning and early afternoon moving slow and glassing we were unable to locate a Ram worthy of a closer look. We decided to make our way to the next side drainage entering into the main river basin, once in view we set up to take a better look and it was not long before Jeff spotted four Rams, two of which were without a doubt needing us to get a closer look. The distance to them was too great to start the hike that late in the day and the decision was made to return the next morning. On day three Jeff, I and Ethan loaded two days of food, tents and essentials and headed back up river to have a better look at the four Rams. The hike into the glacier basin was amazing. Nearing the glacier we spotted the Rams and after several hours of slow stalking, the clouds and rain took them out of our view. Before we knew it, it was almost dark. We decided to pull back again set up camp and try again in the morning. On day four we awoke to bright skies and in no time the sun was on us. After a quick instant breakfast we loaded our packs and headed back to the glacier looking for the rams and in no time we found the two bigger of the four. The stalk was on, moving as slow as possible, trying to shorten the distance. We were able to get close enough to see that ether of the two Rams were what I had hoped to find. Jeff and I spent the next four hours closing the distance and then, still out of range we watched the Rams

stand up and make their way to the top of the mountain and out of our sight again. We made our way back to the tents. On day five we made our way past the glacier up to the divide looking into the next glacier basin seeing several small Rams and no sign of the two shooter Rams. Before the days end we had gathered up our tents and made it back to the spike camp. Day six was spent with Jeff and I looking for Rams near the spike camp and Ethan, the packer made his way back to the main camp for more supplies. On day seven myself, Jeff and Ethan headed out to a new location on the opposite side of the main river from where we had spotted the two large Rams. The hike was about seven and a half miles crossing large bolder fields and spending a lot of time behind the binoculars seeing a lot of ewes and lambs and no shooter Rams. The tents were set up for a cold night on the mountain. Day eight was a short hike to a vantage point and spending the morning glassing unable to find a ram worthy of a closer look. That afternoon we gathered up our camp and headed back toward the main river. After stopping for lunch and more glassing, the vantage point we were at was amazing so we decided to stay there as long as possible looking for the a shooter ram. The day ended without spotting a Ram worthy of a stalk. On day nine we rose to a mix of sun and clouds and spent most the morning glassing for a shooter ram with no avail. After lunch we gathered up the tents and headed back to the Spike camp wondering if we would had a chance to see a shooter Ram before day ten was over. On day ten, the last day of the Hunt, we started glassing the area around the spike camp about 6:30 am knowing we needed to start the six mile hike back to the main camp by late

afternoon. At about 9:30 out of nowhere, a Ram showed up. After putting the spotting scope on the Ram, we decided it is worthy of a closer look. We grabbed our packs, put on our waders, crossed the river and headed down stream through the alders for a closer look. At about 700 yards Jeff made the call that the Ram was a shooter Ram. The stalk was on as we made our way through the alders to a rock slide and the Ram was now out of our sight. We made our way out on to the rock slide and laid down for a solid rest and waited for the Ram to appear. Ranging the hill side it appeared to be a 384 yard shot. After what seemed like minutes but was actually seconds, the Ram appeared on the hill side and with a lot of luck I was able to make a good clean shot and harvested my first Alaskan Dalls Sheep.

The hike to the Ram was short and after a lot of photos and conversation, Jeff made quick work of processing the Ram as we needed to make our way to main camp before the days end. The hike back to main camp seemed a bit long even with a Ram in pack and this was the last day of the hunt.

Thank you Karen Lozier, my wife for giving me this Alaskan Adventure.

Thank you Joe Letarte and Alaska Wilderness Enterprises for the second chance and Guide, Jeff Berg for your willingness to never give up. You made the hunt a hunt to remember. Ethan, the packer, you made the trip a whole lot lighter on me, thank you for that. Also, Thank you Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation for honoring RHS and Life Members through the Life Member Incentive drawings.



"Flying the Giant" By G&F Biologist Tony Mong

"Thousands of mountain sheep were scattered up and down feeding on the short grass which grew among the cliffs and crevices, some so high that it required a telescope to see them." – Osborne Russell, July 11, 1835 somewhere in the southern Absaroka Mountains. From Journal of a Trapper.

Thousands of sheep. Thousands of sheep? I am sure that as you read this (and I have

read this many, many times) you get the same feeling as I do, "he's got to be way off!" However, even if Mr. Russell was way off, we can probably surmise that there were possibly at least hundreds of sheep in this one area of the mountain. That thought must get you longing for those days, days where mountains were so full of sheep you would overestimate thousands. not have the opportunity to count every precious sheep because there are so few. In

our world today we relish the sheep that we have, making every sheep on the mountain important. We have very few herds in the lower 48 that require extensive counting ability because they typically number in the hundreds, maybe thousand but rarely in the multiple of thousands.

The Wyoming Absaroka Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep population has been and continues to be a giant among the smaller widespread populations of sheep across western North America. The Absaroka herd covers 3,030 square miles of occupied sheep habitat, comprises 6 hunt areas and spans the entire eastern boundary of Yellowstone National Park and down to Dubois. The number of sheep in this population has varied over the years but most recently it was thought that there were around 4,000 sheep in the population. This number however has always been an estimate based on small amounts known about the demographics of the bighorn sheep that summer and winter on high elevation habitats in significant portions of the herd unit. This has greatly limited the ability to reliably estimate bighorn sheep population size. For many years, managers have relied on population models that have limited data to come up with a reasonable estimate for this herd.



of data from a small portion of the population. Collecting consistent and reliable population data in this herd has been difficult due in part to limited flight budgets but primarily because of the large area and remote terrain bighorn sheep occupy throughout the herd unit. In addition, bighorn sheep utilize habitats throughout the herd unit differently. Most bighorn sheep utilize high elevation areas for both summer and winter ranges. A smaller number of bighorn sheep migrate to low elevation areas to winter. Little is As with all bighorn sheep populations across the west the Absaroka herd is not immune to the difficulties of being sheep in today's world. Since 2010, managers believe this herd has declined by an estimated 38% and this has concurrently resulted in a 43% decline in available hunting licenses. These declines, although muted by the relatively large size of the overall

population, have concerned managers greatly and lead to a push to collect better data, gather a good baseline population estimate and more practically a "minimum number of sheep in the population". In the winter of 2019 discussions began between sheep managers on how best to go about this and in February of this year bighorn sheep managers from the 3 regions (Cody, Lander and Jackson) came together to try and determine the best way forward to give us a better idea of the amount of sheep that make up

the Absaroka herd. Because of the lack of flight data, summer lamb survey data and the fact that we had very little knowledge of the change of the number of lambs from summer to winter it was decided to pursue the most intense classification and population census of the Absaroka herd ever attempted.

This, as you can imagine, was easier said than done when trying to survey a population that spans over 3,000 square miles. The managers diligently and begrudgingly in some cases used mapping software, previous flight, telemetry and on the ground observation data to draw potential flight lines over the entire area occupied by the Absaroka herd. This allowed them to estimate the amount of time required to fly the area and determine a dollar amount needed to complete both a summer and winter intensive flight. Support for these flights has been immense and appreciated greatly as the dollars needed for the flight far outweighed the flight budget of the WGFD.

After securing funding through the WGFD, the Wyoming Big Game License Coalition and the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation we were able to conduct this epic flight in late July and early August. Flights were conducted by 6 WGFD personnel and 1 tribal game warden by flying a total of 88 hours (including ferry time between sites and fuel stops) and about 4,350 miles throughout bighorn sheep hunt areas 1 to 5, the eastern portion of Yellowstone National Park and the northern portion of the Wind River Indian Reservation. The flight miles covered some of the most rugged, remote bighorn sheep country in the lower 48 that ranged in elevations from 7,000 ft to 12,000 ft. This was truly the most intensive flight for sheep in the Absaroka herd ever attempted.

Throughout all of the flights important demographic data was collected including number of ewes, lambs, younger rams (<¾ curl) and older rams (>¾ curl). We did not try to differentiate between yearling rams and ewes as this is an exceedingly difficult task when they are moving at a high rate of speed while you are trying to accurately count total numbers. One thing to note about this survey, the number of rams we saw was most likely quite a bit lower than what was out there. It is tough to see sheep in the timber from the air. In addition to the demographic information, we were also collecting data associated with a population estimation technique called the "sight-ability method". Basically, this method uses habitat and animal activity information to estimate the number of sheep missed on our flight. The metrics we collected were based on if the sheep were seen on open slopes or cliffs and whether they were moving when we saw them or standing still.

After the dust had settled, data had been entered and the sound of helicopter rotor blades subsided in our heads, we ended up with a grand total of 3,114 bighorn sheep physically seen from the bubble of our helicopters! 3,114 bighorn sheep in one survey of one population (there is a biologist breakdown of numbers in the table below). If we use the sightability population estimation technique I mentioned above, we get a total estimate of 4,750. Let that number sink in. A population that is in the thousands, not tens or hundreds, thousands. However, we take that number with a grain of salt because as I mentioned above, managers believe this population is at least 38% below what it was and possibly even as much as 50% in some areas.

This survey has evoked a myriad of emotions regarding the sheer magnitude of this herd but also the sense of loss over the last 10 years or so. The good news is that because of the large size and large landscape this sheep herd covers, local losses of sheep can be absorbed, and the herd will persist. The bad news is that we can sometimes be lulled into a sense of security with the large size of this population causing us to spend more effort, time, and money in other populations.

My experience with this survey was overwhelming, giving me a sense of awe and pride to be a part of the team that manages this giant. Despite the size though we cannot become complacent with rigorous data collection and exploration of this population, as we have seen that even a giant can stumble. We must ensure that it does not stay down, and we must do all we can to help it back up.

Next we will be seeking funds to complete our paired winter survey to allow us to better understand distribution in the winter as well as lamb loss over the summer.

	Actual Count		Ratios (# per 100 Ewes)				
	Total	Total	Total	Lamb	Adult Ram	>3/4 Curl	Sheep per
Hunt Area	Miles	Counted	>3/4 Curl	Ratios	Ratio	Ratio	mile flown
1	631	425	17	46	32	7	0.67
2	469	492	41	64	40	17	1.04
3	892	618	58	55	34	18	0.69
4	1147	543	33	45	25	10	0.47
5	857	867	98	43	44	21	1.01
YNP	231	139	13	41	42	17	0.60
Reservation	123	30	19	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.24
Total	4350	3114	279	49	36	16	0.72

Table 1. Absaroka Bighorn Sheep summary flight data from the helicopter survey flights that took place between July 27 and August 2 2020.

My 2020 Archery Bison Hunt By Kurt Eisenach

Who^{would} ever think of hunting a Bison in August? Not many I assure you. Like many of you that have applied for a bull bison tag in WY for many years it is simply a part of my yearly application habit. This year I was one of the with my archery gear and early seemed to be the best way to go. The G&F regulations stated the season would open Aug. 15. I thought ok I am free to spend a lot of time in Aug. and early Sept. to try to make this happen. Problem #2 was how do I handle the assistance of our WY Wild Sheep Foundation ED Steve Kilpatrick helped immensely with the where. After many years working and living in Jackson his knowledge of the area and Bison was invaluable. A full day with Steve in July learning the area's



that the bulls tend to favor got me a start. Fast forward to Aug 14, camp is set, mules taken care of and we are off to glass for a bison. 10 min into the first spot and Kalvin has a big bull spotted and he looks to be in an area we can hunt. We move to a different location to glass from because we lost site of the bull. As Kalvin gets out of the truck his worried comment gets my instant attention. I have driven over

lucky few and the first question was Ok now what. All I had ever heard was the hunt would be late in the cold and a lot of hunters competing for an animal in a not so large area. The word footrace came to mind. Not my idea of how I wanted this to play out. I had heard of the rare bison taken early outside the park and elk feed grounds. I wanted to have a chance to harvest my bison

such a massive beast if I manage to be successful. Call the Tag and Drag folks in Jackson, right? Not quite, while they are well known for their services during the later hunts, they were not available that early to pack my bison. My solution was my own pack mules and a hunting crazy 27-year-old son to help. Included were 2- 10 cu. Ft. freezers and a generator. A plan was coming together, and something in the road and have a flat on both passenger side tires. Don't know about you but I only carry one spare. Its after 7pm on Saturday night and I do not know anyone in Jackson to call and have no cell signal anyway. But we live in WY and how could any Wyomingite leave someone stranded on a country road. The first truck that came by stopped. Even though the occupants were

very worried about the Covid issue they agreed to help. Luckily, my sons' truck was at camp and has the same size tires. A quick ride from the generous local resident and we had 4 inflated tires under my truck again. Great the hunt is back on. Opening day, we are the only rig at the parking area awesome! Hike 2 miles into the place we saw the bull and start still hunting and glassing thru the area. Kalvin looks over a small rise into the creek bottom and comes back with a big smile. Bull found. We plan the short 200 yd stalk, execute it, and start peaking over the hill where the Bull was bedded. We should be about 50 yds from him. Keep looking and sneaking and no Bison. How does a 2000 lb. animal disappear into thin air? We have no idea where he went or how he knew we were coming but he is gone. We look for another 45 min but all we find is another hunter and then an outfitter with an archery client all looking for a bull bison. I guess I am not the only nut that doesn't want to face the December hunt. At 10:30 we quit for the day as there is no way I want to be packing a bison out of this grizzly infested area after dark. Its off to Jackson Hole to get some tires fixed. What to do now as I am not the only one hunting the area. We examine our options and decide the bull we saw was not as big as the animal we glassed the previous day. We are going back in and look again even if we have competition. Day two we start a little earlier and arrive at our first glassing spot early. No other hunters at the parking spot but yesterdays company came in from the highway. We play the wind and look over the first hill. Kalvin smiles again, there is a huge bull bedded 150 yds away under a huge ponderosa pine. The wind is perfect, and we have plenty of cover to close the distance. The stalk is perfect, and I range find a small tree behind the now standing bull.

40 yds and I get ready to shoot. I center the aiming pin in the center mass of the bull behind the shoulder. He is slightly quartering away; the arrow is on the way. It that several times with a bull bison. 12 hours later the final pack load was unloaded at the truck. 4 mule loads, 8 miles of walking in 90-degree heat and 5 hours of



strikes the bull high in the back and only penetrates about 12 inches. This is not good! The bull is confused as he has no idea we are there or what has happened. He runs a short distance taking him out of bow range. I do not want this animal to run off wounded, so I take my 300 WBY from Kalvin and finish the job. It is 7:30 in the morning of day 2 and I have a huge bison on the ground. Mistake #1 was ranging the tree and not the bull. It was only 30 yds not 40. #2 was aiming center mass. I had forgot that a bull bison is built a little different that elk and deer. The vital zone is in the lower third of the body. Center mass is where the spinal column lies. My mistakes and they almost cost me an awful day dealing with a wounded animal. They say when the animal is down the fun is over. Magnify

butchering almost did us in. Even with half the meat off the carcass we were unable to roll the beast over until we removed the head.

Bring lots of extraordinarily strong, young help to a bison hunt!

In the end an amazing trip and memory spent with my son. What more could you want from a hunt. As a final tip, 2-10 cu ft. freezers barley held the boned meat. Bring extra coolers and lots of ice! Good luck to you this fall in all your hunts. Make some memories while you can.

3 Herd Unit Updates By G&F Biologist Teal Cufade

Encampment River Bighorn Sheep Herd

2020 has been another exciting year for WGFD as we continue to monitor bighorn sheep movement and habitat selection in the **Encampment River Bighorn Sheep** Herd Unit. In February 2020, after a generous Grant-in-Aid from WY-WSF, managers were able to capture and collar ten ewes. These ewes were disease sampled and fitted with Telonics collars which collect and store hourly locations of the sheep. Every five days new location data points are accessible, so we have an extremely broad scale look at sheep movements and habitat use. In November 2022, when the collars' breakaway devices deploy, we will retrieve the collars from the field and begin to analyze the fine-scale (hourly) location data. These analyses will help managers develop and prioritize habitat projects in the herd unit.

Higher than average snow accumulations during the 2019-2020 winter paired with cold spring temperatures in 2020 resulted in persistent snow pack at high elevations within the Sierra Madre Mountains. As the snow started to recede, bighorn sheep ewes moved towards lambing areas above the Encampment River. The first lambs were observed by managers around May 20th. Tough winter conditions were followed dry summer conditions creating even more challenges for bighorn sheep. However, as of October 1st, there have been no collared bighorn sheep mortalities.

Every other year two "any ram" hunting licenses are issued for the Encampment Herd Unit (Hunt Area 21). Hunters can also use this license in the Douglas Creek Herd Unit (Hunt Area 18). The two 2020 hunters had early success and



harvested mature rams during the archery season. In September, managers were able to take our first field trip of the 2020 school year with Mr. Seitz's sixth grade students. The students were able to locate 46 bighorn sheep, 8 of which had collars. The observed lamb: ewe ratio was 52:100. The group also explored bighorn sheep habitats



Members of Jordan Seitz's 6th grade Encampment class looking for wild sheep.



in the herd unit and brainstormed potential habitat improvement projects. Managers are starting to plan the March 2021 capture/ collaring details with plans to deploy ten more collars in the herd unit.

Ferris-Seminoe Bighorn Sheep Herd

In July 2020, the Medicine Bow Game Warden, Rob Shipe, and Saratoga Wildlife Biologist, Teal Cufaude, flew a four- hour aerial survey of the Pedro Mountains in central Wyoming. The objective of this flight was to search for bighorn sheep that may have traveled to the Pedros. It was interesting to fly a survey where you hoped to not see bighorn sheep. In August 2019, a 20,000+ acre fire swept through the Pedro Mountains raising concerns among wildlife managers about the potential movement of Ferris-Seminoe Bighorn Sheep outside of the herd unit to the Pedro Mountains. In an effort to detect this movement if it were to occur, managers collared ten bighorn sheep (6 ewes, 4 rams) from the Ferris-Seminoe herd in February. No collared animals have attempted to move to the Pedro Mountains as of October 2020 and no bighorn sheep were observed during

the four-hour aerial survey in July.

Douglas Creek Bighorn Sheep Herd

In April 2020, managers received notification of the first collared sheep mortality in the Douglas Creek Herd. Sheep were collared in this herd in 2019, as part of the Statewide Disease Surveillance study. Saratoga

Game Warden-Biff Burton, Saratoga Wildlife Biologist-Teal Cufaude, and Laramie Game Warden-Sarah Dugan went into the Boat Creek area to retrieve the collar. Two local youths, Caleb and Kelton Koehn, who had a day off of virtual

school joined in the collar retrieval effort. The group was able to locate the collar, however the bighorn sheep had decomposed significantly so cause of death was undetermined. The group spent the rest of the day along the North Platte River looking for other bighorn sheep and were able to find 64 bighorn sheep, all of which were ewes and lambs. Rob Shipe, the Medicine Bow Game Warden, was able to capture a picture of a group of Douglas Creek Rams near the Bennett Peak Road this summer. Bighorn sheep used to be observed in this area quite frequently.

Laramie Game Warden-Sarah Dugan, Caleb and Kelton Koehn found the first collared Douglas Crk. sheep mortality. The Mullen Fire was reported on September 17, 2020, and continues to burn at more than 115,000 acres in the Douglas Creek Bighorn Sheep Herd Unit. Luckily both hunters who drew the Hunt Area 18,21 bighorn sheep license harvested rams in mid-August. Managers continue to monitor collared bighorn sheep movements as the fire burns and will continue to monitor movements and resource use post-fire.



Laramie Game Warden, Sarah Dugan along with Caleb and Kelton Koehn in the field looking for wild sheep.



Water for Wildlife Sponsors Dream Hunt By Vickie Hutchinson



When 12-year-old Steven Black of Charleston, South Carolina was asked what he dreamed of doing, his reply was different than most critically ill children. He did not want to go to Disney, or meet a famous athlete, or get a puppy. Young Steven wanted to go on a "real hunt". The Outdoor Dream Foundation with the help of Wyoming Game and Fish Biologist Daryl Lutz, our own One Shot Antelope Hunt Past President, Paul and his wife, Shawonda Fontaine, made this young boy's dream come true. At the beginning of October, Daryl Lutz who had been planning this dream, contacted Paul Fontaine. Those who know Paul, know he lives by the motto "be helpful and be kind". When he was first asked to help make this happen, Paul admits his first reaction was that of being nervous but at the same time honored and excited to be part of helping this young boy. Paul started hunting about the age of 14 with the help of his mentors Mickey and Carl Asbell. Hunting as a kid meant spending time outdoors,

challenging himself and something to look forward to. Assisting with Steven's dream was a way of giving back for all hunting meant to him growing up. Much planning immediately began for the October 19th dream hunt. Days were spent scouting to assure a successful outcome. Plans were made to work with Steven's physical limitations. Steven suffered

with a progressive form of muscular dystrophy. He required a wheelchair and at the last minute, needed a breath activated trigger. This is a "straw like mechanism" which is bolted to the gun, attached to a battery and pulls the trigger by sipping like a straw. The only one to be found at the last minute was in Powell, WY. It was sent over that evening on the Powell, WY cross

country track team bus! This hunt was a huge part of this young boy's life and it had to be right. There was a large support team in place to make this happen. Steven was accompanied by his close family friend, Clay

Kim and Daryl Lutz were his host family and a volunteer named Gene Bidlespacher was the videographer. When the support group first met Steven, he immediately looked at Paul's truck and wanted to fix the bumper. Just like any 12-year-old, he was all boy and full of energy. He was also extremely polite and always said "yes sir and yes mam". The morning of the hunt came. In the words of Paul, "it is going to take a small miracle to make this happen". It was cold, skies were overcast, winds blowing 40 plus mph and the antelope were few, spooky and far away. Steven road shotgun in Paul's truck with Shawonda and Clay in the back seat. Daryl, Kim and the videographer followed closely behind. Eager to get his shot, young Steven asked if he could hunt every antelope he saw, but most were 2000 or more yards away. The group searched hard for an antelope for hours. Steven became a little discouraged but was happy riding shotgun and entertained by instructing Paul to run over ant piles quickly in the truck. After many ant piles and lots of hunting, the disappointed team decided to head home. They knew there was the opportunity to hunt on private land the next day with a likely good outcome.

Thornton who was very familiar with

his limitations and very supportive.



Suddenly, Paul saw a lone buck grazing 200 yards away, hit the brakes and pulled over. Clay looked at Paul and asked, "Is this happening?". Paul responded with "yes, grab Steven!". Clay grabbed Steven (no wheelchair) and hit the ground with Paul. Simultaneously, Daryl grabbed the gun and Steven was ready. According to Paul, "the group was like a well-oiled pit crew, but nobody knew what to do, it was a pile of people". Miraculously the antelope stayed still and continued to graze. Steven fired one shot and said to Paul, who was laying on sage brush- "what happened?". A short silence fell, Paul smiled and said, "you got him buddy". At that point Steven laid on his back screaming and crying out of joy. The entire crew was fighting back tears when Clay carried the overjoyed young boy over to his antelope for pictures. The happy Steven and his team headed back loudly singing country music songs to the radio in Paul's truck. The antelope hunt was just the beginning of Steven's Wyoming adventure. Jessie Allen, of Allen's

Diamond 4 Ranch, hosted Steven on a mule deer hunt right after his antelope experience. He was successful harvesting a nice buck.

In Daryl's words, "it took a village to pull off Steven's dreams successfully...only in Wyoming!!" Many days later, when asked to reflect on the experience, Paul says "It was about Steven, but I felt guilty because I got so much out of it. A lot of people need help and deserve a bright spot in their life. I am very grateful to Daryl Lutz, the Outdoor Dream Foundation and the many team members who connected me with this opportunity and helped make it happen. I hope I am fortunate enough to have the opportunity again..."

Stay in touch with our outstanding partner in conservation: Water for Wildlife at their website: www.waterforwildlife.org/



Steven, Paul Fontaine and the Wyoming Game and Fish's Daryl Lutz who was instrumental in putting this hunt together.

New Genetic Data Informs Wyoming Bighorn Sheep Population Conservation and Management By: Holly Ernest and Sierra Love Stowell

Our recently published paper in the Journal of Wildlife Management (2020) describes how "Bighorn Sheep Genetic Structure in Wyoming Reflects Geography and Management". The Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, and national Wild Sheep Foundation were instrumental in securing samples, collaborations, and funding support for this project. Here's a summary of what we studied and what we found.

Ecological and evolutionary processes affecting wildlife occur primarily at the population level. One of the most basic ways to identify populations is the use of genetics and DNA technology. From a biology standpoint, a genetic "population" (also "clusters") is a group of organisms that regularly interbreed, and are more similar with each other in their DNA than with organisms outside their population. Our University of Wyoming research team and collaborators used this genetic population concept to study how bighorn sheep are genetically related to each other throughout Wyoming.

There are other definitions of "populations", such as considering disease transmission and epidemiology. In these situations an epidemiologic "population" is a group of organisms at risk for a disease - like the example of the novel corona virus causing Covid19 in people. Here an epidemiologic "population" of people at risk for Covid19 might be defined as those living in close proximity to each other in a certain building or a town, but they are not necessarily genetically related to each other. For our study, we are not using the epidemiologic population definition - but keep that one in mind for articles on bighorn sheep pneumonia complex. Both definitions of population, genetic and epidemiologic, are important

for wildlife health. So stay tuned for future work that involves both!

Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) has defined bighorn sheep "herd management units" using the best information they had available at the time. One of our scientific questions was, how does this WGFD herd unit definition compare with the genetics? Another question we aimed to address with our research was, how has trans location of bighorn sheep from other states affected Wyoming genetics? Trans location has been used as an important management tool to help restore and grow bighorn sheep populations in their native habitats for nearly 100 years. A rich history of bighorn sheep trans locations into and out of Wyoming has been chronicled by bighorn sheep biologists and volunteers in the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation, WGFD, Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Wild Sheep Working Group, and the national Wild Sheep Foundation (Wild Sheep Working Group, 2015). Notably, trans location may alter the underlying genetic diversity of



Figure 1. Genetic structure in 247 Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep in Wyoming, USA, 2012–2017 and 92 non-Wyoming trans location source herds collected 1989–2008. A) hunt areas colored by genetic assignment of majority of individuals as indicated, overlaid on a digital elevation model of Wyoming. Numbers inside small white circles are state agency hunt areas. Gray shaded areas are unsampled. Inset indicates out of state trans location source herds. B) the genetic STRUCTURE bar plot; each color represents a unique genetic cluster; numbers correspond to hunt areas shown in map; each column represents the proportional genetic assignment of an individual bighorn sheep. Figure adapted from Love Stowell et al 2020.

managed wildlife species in both beneficial and detrimental ways.

Our study found there was high gene flow -- genetic interchange due to movement of animals with resulting successful breeding -among herds that had trans location sources in common, and herds that received trans located individuals from other herds. We identified at least five genetic clusters of Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep in the major mountain ranges of Wyoming. These genetic clusters generally align with current herd management units in the Absaroka, Devil's Canyon, Jackson, Kouba Canyon and Whiskey Mountain areas (Figure 2, adapted from Love Stowell et al 2020). For example, there is high gene flow among Devil's Canyon, Laramie Peak and Ferris-Seminoe

Figure 2. Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep Photo by Melanie LaCava



herds. Devil's Canyon, including the surrounding habitat in the Bighorn Mountains, received the most trans locations of any herd in Wyoming, including trans location of bighorn sheep from Whiskey Mountain near Dubois; Morgan Creek, Idaho; Missouri Breaks, Mont.; and the Lower Deschutes River, Ore. Laramie Peak also received trans locations from Whiskey Mountain and Montana. The Ferris-Seminoe herd was founded by trans location and continues to receive individuals from Devil's Canyon. An interesting finding of the study is that bighorn sheep have maintained a distinctive population genetic structure in Wyoming, even with historical population losses and trans locations. We might have expected that the large reductions in population sizes and trans location events caused disintegration of population genetic structure, and an appearance of Wyoming bighorn sheep to be panmictic or "all interbreeding". But, they are not. They have distinctive populations.

This research provides the first comprehensive statewide assessment of genetic diversity and structure of Wyoming's bighorn sheep. It will enhance management by understanding the outcomes of trans location, identifying the source of unknown individuals and providing needed information for disease ecology models. The source herd identification of wandering bighorn sheep rams who mix with domestic sheep is important when determining if management actions are necessary to prevent pneumonia disease spread. We found that most Wyoming herds have low "effective population sizes" - a measure of the number of individuals in a population that contribute offspring to the next generation. So this information is important for wildlife managers to weigh when they assess the importance of maintaining gene flow for increasing genetic diversity and effective population size against the risks of disease transmission, out breeding depression, phenology mismatch and other factors. Out breeding depression occurs when two genetically distant populations are interbred resulting in a reduction of survivorship and ability to reproduce. Phenology mismatch means that the timing of important life cycle events (such as lambing season) are off-kilter and don't fit the best season for that event. Finally, our research provides a baseline for genetic monitoring in

the face of future disease outbreaks or extreme weather events."

So what's next? Well, for the study just described, we used genetic methods called micro satellites and mitochondrial DNA. Those methods have the super important over the past ~30 years for helping wildlife biologists and managers learn about biological diversity in wild species and define basic genetic populations. The next steps are what we are working on now – examining major sections of the whole genomes of Wyoming bighorn sheep to assess their "genetic health" in more detail. This whole genomic evaluation will be done in concert with pneumonia disease ecology work of our colleagues, at University of Wyoming and at other institutions. This next phase of work has also been supported in multiple ways including funding by the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation and Wyoming Governor's Big Game Grant.

References Cited or adapted for this article:

Ron Podell (2020) UW Researchers Study Genetic Outcomes of Trans locating Bighorn Sheep in Wyoming http://www.uwyo.edu/uw/ news/2020/06/uw-researchers-studygenetic-outcomes-of-translocatingbighorn-sheep-in-wyoming.html

Sierra M. Love Stowell Roderick B. Gagne Doug McWhirter William Edwards Holly B. Ernest. 2020 Journal of Wildlife Management 84(6):1072–1090; 2020; DOI: 10.1002/jwmg.21882

Wild Sheep Working Group. 2015. Records of Wild Sheep Trans locations-United States and Canada, 1922-Present. Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, USA. www.wafwa.org and https:// tinyurl.com/Wafwa-BHS-tloc



IF YOU HAVE BEEN WAITING... AND FINALLY HAVE ENOUGH POINTS TO DRAW.....

congratulations!

This is a

true wilderness adventure offering first class, fair chase hunts. We specialize in big horn sheep, elk, and mule deer hunts. Our hunting area lies in the Absaroka range of the Rocky Mountains in Northwest Wyoming, & the greater Yellowstone region. Spike camps are utilized to access the most remote areas where the big ones live. After waiting many years to gather the preference points, it only makes sense to hire the most experienced guide for this once in a lifetime high country hunt. If you are looking for an outfitter who specializes in one on one personalized hunts, look no further.

THIS COULD BE YOUR YEAR

■ CONTACT US 307-587-5343

LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE BOOK NOW!

Visit us at www.wyominghunts.com for more details • John Porter • 10 Creek Lane • Cody, Wyoming 82414 • E-mail: jport06@hotmail.com Permitted on Shoshone National Forest • Other Hunts, Fishing & Summer Trips Available • Cell: 307-899-5343

"The last Mooney Ram, (for now)..... " By Scott Mooney

Our brother had been in the same situation many of you have or are in currently. Year after year buying points, saving up for when the time is right, and you finally get that weatherproof paper tag in the mail. His turn was up, every other Mooney brother and our dad have a Wyoming bighorn on our wall. One harvested in area 19, one in area 5, and one in area 3. This year we finished the last one in area 12. Devils canyon is a twisted trench in the earth with some hellacious rams that roam the shadowed draws.

The four-wheeler train into camp was dusty and long. It was a good thing we all kept our Rona protective gear from the grocery run at the local supermarket, they came in pretty useful for once. Opening day brought several rams and ewes that would look great on any wall. Our brother was after "THE ONE." That morning we took off to see what was hiding in the morning shadows. We passed on several rams worth shooting hoping to find the daddy of them all. We scouted all day, glassing off every point that over hung porcupine creek. All those miles in the dust lead us right back to the first point we looked into that morning.

There he was, grazing at the head of a shale chute, he was pushing around a second ram that hung by his side. He was in a good spot to sneak up on but a terrible spot to drop him in. One slip and he would slide to the bottom, a bottom we could not see. Grazing back and forth 98 yards away from where my brother was prone benching off his pack. A helpful whisper from Gary solidified the shot. One shot, the ram drops then slides. Thankfully, a bush tangled with the animal 20 yards down the chute and halted his descent. Once the ram was stationary the reality finally hit my brother. He had his ram. The ram that had to be put on hold from last year due to Mike catching pneumonia a week before his hunt.

The next several hours was spent deboning and packing up the massive animal for the hike back to the top. Wade found a more direct route up the cliff to where our dad was waiting with the lights flashing on our chariots.

We could not have done this hunt without the help from many friends and family. Gary, Wade and Leo, thank you so much for the help and friendship. We all hope more hunts will include you guys in the future.

Ramshorn society member Scott Mooney Ramshorn society member Patrick Mooney Life Member Allen Mooney Newest member to be kicked from the <1 club Michael Mooney.





Scott Robeson Custom Woodworking & Fine Cabinetry

1000

www.scottrobesoncustomwood.com scottrobesoncustomwood@gmail.com (307) 332-9846



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@www.wyomingwildsheep.org.



LM Don Perrien

RHS Life Member Leah Fortner from NZ

Shane Adams-2019 WYO

Member's allery

RHS LM Kurt Eisenach with his WYO bear

RHS Life Member Ray Lozier Alaskan Dalls Sheep





LM Josh Martoglio took time out from guiding other sheep hunters to harvest his first wild sheep in Alaska.

BLAST FROM THE PAST DO YOU KNOW THESE GUYS?(Answer on Page 3)

RHS LM Miles Fortner with NZ Tahr.

RHS Life member Lea Fortner found a Red Desert Bull





www.davistent.com https://www.facebook.com/DavisTent/ https://www.facebook.com/groups/DavisWallTents/ (877) Elk-Camp or 303-561-1817

RHS Life Member, John Harris photographed these S.D. Badlands Rams.



<u>RUSTIC CREATIONS</u> TAXIDERMY CABINETRY SHOP

CUSTOM HAND MADE BASES CRAFTED IN THE USA



TAXIDERMY BY DEWEY WILDLIFE STUDIO

(307) 330-6672

RUSTIC CREATIONS

P.O. Box 1897 Lander Wyo. 82520

For more information call Ken or Ronie @ 307/330/6672 E-mail rusticcreations@wyoming.com Web rusticcreationstaxidermy.com



WE LOVE A CHALLENGE

man the second have been a second of the

Jamie Daley-Snowies Elk.

RHS Life Members Pat and Danyelle Pace with 3 of 4 grand babies and Grannies antelope.





TABSE BIGGEORNS IN BIRDEFSS ON

VERY HIGH SUCCESS ON ALL SPECIES HUNTED!

WE ALSO OFFER OUTSTANDING HUNTS FOR

- ELK
- DEER
- BEAR
- MOUNTAIN LION
- MOUNTAIN GOAT
- MOOSE
- ANTELOPE







Outfitter • Josh Martoglio • 307.899.4673 • shoshonelodgeoutfitters@gmail.com • wyoming outfitter licensed and insured BC-019

f (O)

www.tdksafaris.com South African Operated : Anrivaled funting safaris: : Inspiring Photo safaris: : Spectacular Jolfaris: CONTACT US TO BOOK YOUR SAFARI TODAY LIVETHEDREAM@TDKSAFARIS.COM



SelfStorageWyo.com Offering the Best Value Storage Solutions in the State



We are the premier self-storage facility in Wyoming! 3 locations to fit your needs. 2 in Casper and 1 in Gillette.

CASPER 307-266-9626 | GILLETTE 307-680-3497 324 N Walsh Drive, Casper, WY 82609 • 1001 East Energy St, Gillette, WY 82716 Casper@selfstoragewyo.com

> Mention this ad to receive your first month free* *terms and conditions may apply



Kenetrek

ON 🗙 HUNT

THE #1. HUNTING APP

Download today for a 7-day free trial of the most comprehensive maps available

App Store

Sheridan Gillette

Wyoming

For more information visit **onxmaps.com/hunt**

photo: Dan Sullivan, onX

₩уо



YOU CAN COUNT ON US...

We're built like a tank but wear like a second skin. You can bank on our reliability and take our comfort for granted...and we're here for the long haul. You want to make us happy? Just hunt.

STAY FOCUSED WITH KENETREK Mountain boots

KENETREK.COM

KENETREK MOUNTAIN BOOTS We're hunters first. We became boot designers to

fulfill a need we couldn't find elsewhere. We built boots we can trust. Boots that always feel good. And we keep hunting, testing, and advancing our designs. It's what we do and we love doing it.

Casper Riverton

HARDSCRABBLE HIKER MOUNTAIN EXTREME

Wyoming



Rocky Mountain





Award winning optics exclusively sold direct with no middle man and no retail markup. mavenbuilt.com / Lander, Wyoming / 800.307.1109





"SPECIALIZING IN QUALITY CUSTOM HUNTS"

Meade & Andrea Dominick | Cody, WY | Outfitter: WY BG-122 307.899.1490 or 307.587.9885 | www.7dranchoutfitting.com | meadedominick@hotmail.com THESE PHOTOS WERE ALL TAKEN IN THE 2018 SEASON



Wyoming Trophy Mule Deer, Antelope and Elk Hunts

Montana Trophy Mule Deer, Antelope and Elk Hunts

Cole D. Benton Wyoming Outfitter #BG068 Montana Outfitter #7296

1921 Passaic Road · Clearmont, WY 82835 · Telephone: (307) 736-2277 · E-mail: grizout@vcn.com

Welcome to Grizzly Outfitters, LLC. Our specialty is Wyoming and Montana trophy mule deer, antelope, and elk hunts. Grizzly Outfitters has been in business for over 25 years. We offer excellent quality animals as our repeat clients can testify. Our hunt area is exclusive on 245,000 acres in one block covering both Wyoming and Montana. We have a complete record keeping program and acquire yearly records on each animal taken. The teeth are analyzed to determine age, weights are taken, location of harvest, and the condition of the animal are all recorded.

We at Grizzly Outfitters, LLC pride ourselves in having some of the best guides. Pepper, Tyler, Pat, Jess, Colby, Adrian, Ed, and Brad have all been involved in our operation for many years. They know and understand the game patterns and the terrain.



Our success rate runs close to100% due to these qualified guides. They are the foundation of Grizzly Outfitters, LLC.

Our hunts are four days hunted on private, BLM, and State lands. You will be guided 2x1 or 1x1 which ever you choose with four wheel drive pickups and on foot. These are spot and stalk hunts. We offer both rifle and archery

hunts. We can handle any type of hunt regardless of your age or physical condition.

Our main lodging is the Cabin Creek Lodge, which is our personal residence, and the Squaw Creek Camp is used for the Wyoming season. We offer excellent accommodations with all the comforts of home. We employ two full time cooks, so be ready to gain some weight with our home style meals.



GE 66



Jorman Q PHOTOGRAPHY

Join us at the Clarion in Casper on June 4 & 5, 2021 For our 36th annual convention.

