

The RAMPAGE

Quiz Gets His Ram
Story On page 21

Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation
Fall 2021

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The **RAMPAGE** Features

Fall 2021

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James Owens
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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

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By Armond Acri
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By RHS LM #410 Kurt Eisenach



President Zach McDermott along with his father, Larry shows us his 12 year old Colorado HA 73 ram. Read the story in the Spring 2022 RamPage.

Address Changes

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!!

2021-2022 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec 3-4, 2021
Board/Membership Meeting
Laramie, WY

January 10-15, 2022
WSF Sheep Show
Reno, NV

May 19-21, 2022
WSF Chapter & Affiliates
San Antonio, TX

June 3-4, 2022
Annual Convention
Lander, WY

June 16-17, 2022
Wyoming Big Horn Sheep Summit
Burgess Junction, WY

2021 Governor's License Sales Totals

| 2021 Sale Location | 2021 LICENSE SALES | 2020 LICENSE SALES |
|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| WSF | \$120,000 | \$105,000.00 |
| Eastern | \$200,000 | \$94,000.00 |
| Midwest | \$127,750 | \$90,000.00 |
| Iowa | \$135,000 | \$107,000.00 |
| WY | \$130,000 | \$110,000.00 |
| Total | \$712,750 | \$506,000.00 |

New Life Members

- #613 Robert Rogan
- #614 John Long
- #615 Cydney Long
- #616 Ron Amundson
- #617 J.R. McEntee
- #618 Ethan O'Connell
- #619 Glen Pyne
- #620 Scott Hushbeck
- #621 Robert Luck
- #622 Steve Haberland
- #623 Jaimee Brennan
- #624 Amelia Sims
- #625 John Barrasso
- #626 Ricardo Fernandez
- #627 Rowdy McBride
- #628 Austin Edmunds
- #629 Greg Anderson
- #630 William Cullins
- #631 Laci Martoglio
- #632 Katie Cheesbrough
- #633 Michael Wieck

Wyoming WSF would like to thank, and recognize, Life Members who have signed up since the Spring 2021 RamPage was published. A complete listing of WY-WSF Life Members is available for viewing on the WY-WSF web page, under the "Life Members" tab:

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

If you would be interested in signing up or upgrading to Life Member 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 - RHS Life Member #355, Diane DiJenno walked into Dinwoody Creek and found her first Bighorn Ram in 1986. See it on page 60!



Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation

2021 Polaris Ranger XP/Premium 1000 UTV
with Power Steering and a 3 Seat, Sedan Bench
Seat, Navy Blue Color. Valued at \$18,000.



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Purchase Tickets at: www.wyomingwildsheep.org
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The contest is open to everyone and anyone can win. All proceeds from this contest go towards Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation grant in aid project funding. The drawing will be held at our winter banquet in Laramie, WY on December 4, 2021. You need not be present to win. The UTV winner will pick up the vehicle in Laramie, WY and is responsible for the cost of applicable taxes, title transfer and registration fees.

“Putting and Keeping Kids and Wild Sheep on the Mountain”

Executive Director's Report

By Katie Cheesbrough

The smell of damp sage on crisp mornings, aspens ablaze with change, football at War Memorial Stadium, and the promise of adventure and memories made during hunts with family and friends . . . if there's something better than autumn in Wyoming, I haven't found it yet. With the changing weather Deputy Director, Dean DiJenno has put together another fantastic issue of the RamPage to keep you company on these lovely fall evenings. The RamPage is a labor of love for Dean and I wanted to share my heartfelt appreciation for his hard work and dedication to the chapter and Wyoming's Wild Sheep.

With this fall issue of the RamPage I celebrate one year working for and with the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation (WY-WSF); and what a year it's been! I have learned so much and met so many wonderfully passionate people who are devoted to the conservation of wild sheep. As I look back on the year, I'm amazed at what this chapter has accomplished and wanted to share a few highlights and updates.

We were overjoyed to step out of the COVID quarantine and gather for the 2021 summer banquet in Casper. Once again, we were able to enjoy the company of friends, old and new, share laughs and stories, and discuss all things bighorn sheep. We are so grateful to the National Bighorn Sheep Center for hosting a youth archery event and a really exciting youth experience. The banquet was an incredible success for many reasons and, thanks to the help and generosity of so many of you, we raised a record \$434,817 that will go back into bighorn sheep management, conservation, and education. We are looking forward to holding our 2022 banquet June 3rd & 4th in Lander, WY and hope you will join us!

With the support of WSF, Wyoming, Iowa, Midwest, and Eastern WSF Chapters, the Wyoming Governor's Big Game License Coalition broke another fundraising record for Wyoming's bighorn sheep in 2021. The previous record was outdone by over \$250,000 dollars this year through auctions and the first raffle of the Governor's bighorn sheep tag.

The WY-WSF and the Wyoming Governor's Big Game License Coalition continue to

collaborate and use the funds raised to support bighorn sheep research, education, management, and habitat projects. Since last fall, the WY-WSF has dedicated over \$134,000 to fund bighorn sheep grant-in-aid proposals. Additionally, \$150,000 from the Endurance Fund grant received in 2020 was allocated to the Wyoming Game and Fish Department to mitigate invasive grasses in bighorn sheep habitats. It is the board's intention that these funds will be used to leverage further fundraising to continue the enhancement of Wyoming's bighorn sheep habitats.

If you are reading the RamPage, you likely understand what it is to love wild sheep and hope to get a chance to draw a coveted Wyoming bighorn sheep tag. These licenses have become so sought after that the odds of drawing one are fairly slim. Under the current licensing and preference point structure, there has become an issue of "point creep." Currently it is unlikely for folks to draw a bighorn license with less than 20+ preference points with the max preference point mark continually getting higher. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) established the Wyoming Wildlife Task Force to tackle these types of top-priority wildlife policy issues related to allocation of hunting opportunity, sports person access, and other complex topics. The task force met four times in 2021 and one of the major topics that has been discussed at each meeting has been that of bighorn sheep licensing issues.

The WY-WSF put out a survey to our membership and posted a link to social media to inform the public about changes being discussed and to provide an opportunity to weigh in with your comments. Those survey results were sent to the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and shared with the task force. However, the discussion is ongoing and

I would encourage you to be involved with the task force's efforts, whether it's attending the meetings in Casper, viewing the meetings online, attending local task force member listening sessions, and/or providing additional input to the task force Online. For more information, please visit <https://sites.google.com/wyo.gov/wyomingwildlifetaskforce>.

Lastly, I wanted to share with you an exciting proposal that was brought to the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission in July to evaluate a potential reintroduction of bighorn sheep to the Sweetwater Rocks area near Jeffrey City, Wyoming. The proposal was approved and the Commission directed the Game and Fish Department to proceed with an evaluation. Certain bighorn sheep management activities are guided by the Final Report and Recommendations from the Wyoming Statewide Bighorn/Domestic Sheep Interaction Working Group (2004), commonly referred to as the Wyoming Plan. This plan dictates that the Bighorn/Domestic Sheep Interaction Working Group (Interaction Working Group; IWG) convene to publicly discuss the proposal with affected/interested landowners, agencies, and organizations. The IWG meeting will be held on November 2, 2021 at the Inn at Lander from 10:00am-2:00pm. Representatives from the WY-WSF will be there to support this proposal and work toward putting more bighorn sheep on the "mountain!"





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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY ZACH MCDERMOTT

Fall and Winter have arrived. I hope everyone has been able to enjoy a great and fruitful hunting season.

2021 has been a very prosperous year for WY-WSF.

Our 2021 Summer Banquet was a huge success. For the first time ever, the seminars were standing room only. The banquet event was sold out at with 400 attendees, an all time high. With that, our net revenue was over \$225K, breaking our previous record by \$75K. What a great night for WY-WSF and our Bighorn Sheep!

The Winter Meeting is coming up on December 3rd and 4th in Laramie. The highlight will be an interactive tour of the WGFD Sybille Canyon Research Center and meeting the new State Wildlife Vet staff. See the info on page 63 in the magazine for further details.

Following our winter meeting will be the WSF "Sheep Show" in Reno January 13th-15th 2022. Again, this year, WY-WSF will be a Silver Sponsor of the Silent Auctions and have a booth at the convention center. We will be unveiling our new Annual Membership Incentive Raffle during the Sheep Show and want to extend a special thank you to Weatherby for teaming up with us to provide some great firearms to the winners. Further details will be coming out in the near future.

WY-WSF would also like to extend a thank you to Governor Gordan for continuing the Governor's Tag Program. Last year was a record setting year for monies generated by the tag sales and we are expecting great things again in 2022.

The Eastern Chapter is doing a raffle again with their 2022 Governor's Tag. Tickets are on sale and more information can be found at their website: www.ecwsf.org. Last year's raffle winner, Steve Quisenberry, attended our summer event and became a Ramshorn Life Member.

Congratulations to Steve for joining the chapter and for harvesting a spectacular ram. His story is on page 21.

Finally, I would like to thank all the volunteers who helped at our summer banquet and on our projects. We couldn't have the success we do without you.

Hope to see you in Laramie and Reno!



Zach

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WICKED
RIVER
OUTFITTERS



Conservation Fund Update

BY SCOTT BUTLER

Conservation Fund Update Fall 2021

Check out the Memorial Page on the web site under Conservation Fund then Memorial Donors. <https://www.wyomingwildsheep.org/memorial.asp> This gives a salute and honors the memory of our fallen members. Gary and Jo Butler have donated \$1000 in memory of Butch Townsend and challenge others to do the same. The Wy-WSF Board have matched this contribution with a \$1000 pledge as well.



In the photo on the left is new LM #628 Austin Edmunds! On the right is LM#624 Amelia Sims. The young man with his face obscured is her brother, LM#605 Isaac Sims. When his name was drawn for this year's prize, he announced that he was already a LM but wanted to give this year's membership to his sister. **Way to go Isaac!**

These youngsters attended our banquet in June and won drawings which included a Cow Elk hunt, Air Rifles, Bow and Arrows, the Life memberships and much more.

Another great reason to bring the family to our winter and summer meetings!

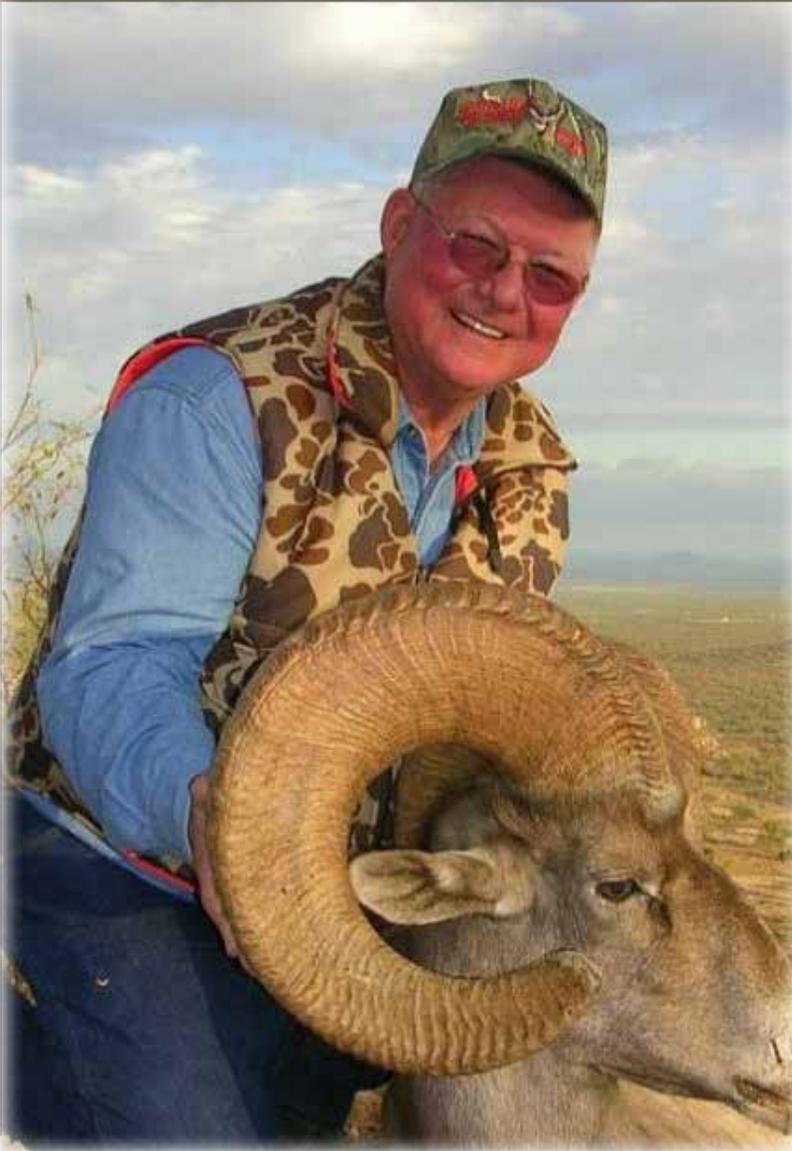
Conservation Fund Total
August 11, 2021 = \$413,321.79
GIAs funded = \$33,500
Life Memberships Awarded = 11

PUTTING AND KEEPING KIDS
AND WILD SHEEP
ON THE MOUNTAIN!

WILLIAM “BUTCH” TOWNSEND III

Life Member #177

Oct. 1, 1938–Aug. 26, 2021



William Darrel Townsend III (Butch) of Newcastle, WY passed away August 26, 2021 at Monument Health Hospital in Rapid City, SD. William was born in Newcastle, WY October 1, 1938 to Bill and Katherine Townsend. He was the 3rd of five children. Kay Linton, June Brown, Charles and Mark Townsend. He attended school in Upton and graduated in 1956. William joined the Air Force in 1959, he was honorably discharged after four years of service to his country. He married Karen Sue Bock Aug. 6, 1961 while stationed in Alexandria, Louisiana. They had two children Curtis Townsend and Lori Kremke. He attended Black Hills State College and graduated with a B.S. in business administration and a minor in Chemistry. He was an avid hunter and conservationist. He supported many organizations including: Foundation for North American Wild Sheep (FNAWS), NRA, and the Wild Sheep Foundation. He was a charter member of the FNAWS and was always proud to be charter member #6. In 2007 Butch was able to complete his quest of a lifetime by harvesting a Desert Bighorn Sheep, completing his Grand Slam. Butch additionally served on the national board of directors for the Wild Sheep Foundation. William's Masonic affiliations were extensive and began in 1968 when he was elected to receive his Masonic degrees. He was initiated, passed and raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason in Newcastle Lodge #13 on March 7, 1968. He was a dual member with Upton Lodge #38. He was Worshipful Master of Newcastle Lodge #13 in 1990-91 and Upton Lodge #38 in 1992-93. He was Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge A.F. and A.M. of Wyoming in 2013-14. He was inducted into the Red Cross of Constantine in 2013. William was a member of a Sheridan Valley Scottish Rite and was a 32nd degree Scottish Rite Mason. He was a member of Gillette York Rite Chapter #17, Council #11, Commandry #13. He served as High Priest, Illustrious Master and Eminent Commander of those bodies respectively. He was a Shriner of Kalif in Sheridan and a member of Inyan Kara Shrine Club. He was also a member of the Eastern Star Chapter #13. He served as Associate Guardian of Bethel #15 in Newcastle. Butch was associated with Townsend Company Inc. from its inception. In 1977 the Townsend Company Inc. purchased the ranch from Johnson Bock Johnson on Beaver and Oil Creeks. Butch was manager of this ranch until its sale. He spent countless hours improving this ranch. He built many miles of waterline, benefiting livestock and wildlife both. He spent his birthday every year hosting antelope and deer hunters, developing many lifelong friends. He also served on the Governors Task Force & Water Development board during this time. William was a loving and generous man. He gave of his time and financial support wherever needed. He loved his family, enjoyed travel with his wife Kathy whom he met, fell in love with, and married on July 7, 2007. He enjoyed the many organizations to which he belonged, had many projects and could fix or build just about anything. He was a patriot and an example of the kind of man that built this country. He will be remembered for his humor and kind heart.

Memorial Challenge

Donations will be accepted to the Conservation Fund Memorial in Butch's honor. Please help us match a generous \$1,000 donation from the Butler family that will assist the chapter in something that was near and dear to Butch's heart. Getting kids involved in the chapter to become life members. Donations may be sent to: P.O. Box 666, Cody, WY. 82414 through our web store at: <https://www.wyomingwildsheep.org/store.aspx> or by phone at (307)213-0998.



“There Were Always Sheep On That Pinnacle”

By RHS Life Member #431, Mark Conrad

We rode for a day and a half to get to our camp, pausing

often to rest the horses (and Andy who was doing the trip on foot) and told stories about other hunts, horse wrecks and other people who have been up the glorified elk trail. Gary, Scott, Andy and I got to our base camp a few days before the 2009 season opened for my Area 3 tag. After we set up camp, Andy and I climbed a nearby ridge and saw several medium-size rams on a pinnacle about a mile from camp.

We spent the next day glassing the nearby drainages. We were seeing rams, including some on the pinnacle near camp, but nothing to get very excited about. The day before the season opened, Gary led me and Scott to some other drainages to look over. We saw

more rams, but since it was so hot often only got a glimpse of them in the trees, or they were

how to make a stalk, we saw a couple other guys who had the same idea and were already in the middle of a



too far away to judge well. But it appeared some were bigger than by the base camp. Scott and I spiked out, and Gary rode back.

Opening morning, we saw a group of 5 older rams bedded in a draw less than a mile away, including a definite shooter. As we discussed

stalk. They were side hilling through some small draws and only about 300 yards from the rams, which suddenly jumped up and ran over 2000 vertical up the draw and over the ridge. I'm not sure if the wind shifted or they made too much noise, but those poor guys had no idea they were gone... We saw some



and far to get a good look, but we were hopeful.

Since the last place we saw them before total darkness was on the face of the pinnacle, our plan for the morning was for me and Andy to climb the back side in the dark, and Gary and Scott would find the rams from the glassing knob and give us hand signals.

I love hiking by starlight – we pushed through bunches of deer and a bugling elk almost ran us over. We got to the top as it was getting light and waited for Gary and Scott to find the rams. After what seemed like hours, we got the signal they were several hundred yards below me and I started my stalk. I worked my way down, but still could not see them

- Gary and Scott frantically waved that they were right below me.

I inched on top of a skinny knife ridge and there they were, bedded in a little pocket 40 yards below.

I looked them over, hemmed and hawed, thought about old broomed off rams, then decided to pass and just take a picture. I set my rifle down and reached for my camera. They instantly ran off, and when they paused at 100 yards my rifle went off! They ran out of sight of all of us. There was just enough blood to follow down a talus slope and Andy found him under a Krumholtz, a hundred yards below.

We signaled to our spotters and Gary started spurring and riding his imaginary horse around the glassing knob. Then Scott did the same thing, leading his imaginary pack horse. Hoorah! The cavalry was coming! They were able to ride right to us and we celebrated with a small bottle of whiskey that Bill sent for the occasion. We got back to camp and realized we left the whiskey at the gut pile but were too tired to get it.

I've been on 2 more hunts there since, but never saw any more sheep on that pinnacle. But after Andy got his ram nearby 4 years later, I went back to the pinnacle, and found the aged whiskey to celebrate!

other rams, but they were miles away across a canyon we didn't know how to cross, in the middle of a wide-open basin, and were surrounded by at least 6 grizzlies eating moths. We decided to head back to camp. Andy had been seeing new rams by camp, including some on the pinnacle.

Day 2 found us glassing near camp, then we climbed the big ridge the 5 rams had gone over. We looked into some new drainages, and I was so sure we would be back, I left a full water bottle on top. Hopefully one of you found it when you were thirsty!

On the morning of day 3, Scott ran over to where I was glassing and said he just saw 3 rams cross an avalanche chute on a north facing timbered slope. We spent the entire day baking in the hot sun on a glassing knob waiting for them to show. About sundown, we finally saw them work their way down through the timber to drink out of the creek, then they bedded down again in the trees. At dark, they headed up toward the pinnacle. It was too dark





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“THE RIVER DALL’S”

by Life Member #538, Bralli Clifford

Life changing events: graduation from college, starting a career, getting married, the birth of a child and Dall’s sheep hunting. Although to most people a hunt wouldn’t make the list of life changing events, my August 2013 hunt was just that - life changing.

I didn’t begin my life as a hunter. When I met and began dating my life partner, just prior to my 30th birthday, that all changed. Hunting has become an everyday part of my life. Something I look forward to, plan for and reset with. Because of this new found love, Greg decided we were going to book a Dall’s sheep in the Northwest Territories and that I would be the primary hunter. I was ecstatic!

Fast-forward to day six of my 10 day sheep hunt and the word at base camp was that Bralli still hadn’t harvested a ram and everyone was getting nervous that she wouldn’t. This was a float trip down the Arctic Red River and Greg and I had opted to “man” our own boat while letting our two guides ride in the second, despite having no prior experience navigating a raft.

The rainfall this year was extensive in the Northwest Territories and the Arctic Red was quite full with many small and large tributaries branching off from the main channel of the river. This made navigation more challenging as it was often not easy to differentiate the main channel from an offset of

the river. It also often put us in front of our guides as the river overruled our attempts to successfully maneuver. During one such instance, with our guides behind us, our boat stuck on a large tree trunk in the middle of the current of frigid water. Unaware of the danger we were in, we turned back to watch our guides attempt to free themselves from a small channel they had gotten stuck in. Suddenly, with their hands waving above their heads and screams coming from their mouths we realized our mistake. Our raft, full of us, my rifle and all of our gear, was rapidly taking on water. As is the norm, one of the people in a raft usually wears hip waders to facilitate getting into and off shore and to navigate through shallow sections of river, we had decided

push us off the trunk...and the river sucked him right out of the boat. As an ER nurse, and more importantly a mother, I usually pride myself on not getting flustered and always keeping my cool. Instead, my mind went numb and my fear took over. Greg, calm and collected, swiftly grabbed for the side of the raft and held tight, his hip waders full of water and his body soaked and already beginning to get cold. “Get in the boat Greg” I said pleadingly. Greg, still calm replied evenly that it was impossible to get in the boat. Tears sprang from my eyes and rolled down my face, and begging I said “we can do it, you push and I will pull, we can get you in”. Still with complete patience he replied, “Bralli, my hip waders are full of water and I am too heavy, I can’t get



Greg would be employed in that capacity. With quick thinking, as my mind raced and I attempted to free us with the oars, Greg put a leg into the brisk current and attempted to

back in the boat”. Any chance I had at composure washed immediately down the ice cold river as the past five years of my life and all the memories I had with him flashed through my mind.



Greg continued to hold on to the side of the boat, and our guides continued to try to gain ground on us in order to provide assistance. I continued to sob, not an ounce of ER nurse or mom to be seen. Finally, after what felt like hours instead of minutes, Greg's feet found purchase on the silty bottom of the river and he drug us to a small island. Immediately he grabbed my rifle and begin pulling gear out of our packs to ensure minimal water exposure, all while I stood, still crying on the shore.

Around the campfire that evening, after drying out our gear and getting Greg warmed up, I remarked to our guides that Greg and I had already had an amazing experience, seen the most tremendous views and enjoyed the company of new and prior friends. And most importantly, any prior doubts or misconceptions about the validity and strength of my relationship dissolved with a pure and unwavering knowledge of the love I had from my partner and the fact that he would, and had, risked his life in order to save mine. If a Dall's Sheep harvest didn't present itself, we would not be leaving unsuccessfully.

We are lucky enough to live in a beautiful area of Wyoming with access to great mounting hunting. We used these areas in addition to our daily workouts to train for this hunt. As it was my first backpack hunt, in addition to being my first sheep hunt, we trained consistently for over a year. I was quite nervous about my ability and wanted to prove to myself that I could be successful, and truly enjoy the experience, in this type of challenging environment.

After getting fogged out for the first two days of the hunt, the shale slide that we encountered after our first two hour hike up the mountain and

passing a record book caribou (despite the fact that I had a tag to harvest one) truly tested my abilities. The sheer vertical terrain was astonishing and both our lungs and our thighs burned with the effort we exerted. The view at the top quickly made us forget any pain we may have felt however, it was breathtaking. The river braiding below us, distant mountain vistas and the

Yukon in the distance, it was worth every step and every breath. So began the daily activity of hiking to the top of one peak, glassing the area thoroughly and descending to the next peak over, electively covering two mountains every day.

Although I was the primary hunter, and the focus of the hunt was taking a sheep, the option of harvesting a caribou, moose, wolf or wolverine was still available and Greg too held tags for the multiple species. Despite my careful planning, passing on a beautiful, record book caribou a half-hour into our first hike was an exceptionally difficult decision. Especially given that it was the first caribou I had seen on the hoof, in its natural habitat.

That evening we spooked a bull moose on our way back to camp and my heart skipped a beat with excitement. We also experienced first hand the feeling of being the hunted versus the hunter when we encountered three, full grown grizzlies who upon seeing us began running straight at us. The sow and her two, two-year-old cubs quickly changed direction when they winded us and realized we may be more dangerous than delicious.

Although I had spent the past 5 years hunting with Greg and our family, I have still not wavered in my opinion that the harvest is only the climax, and account for only part of the overall experience. On the evening of day 6 when Jeremy glassed up yet another ram, this one miles away and on the opposite side of the river, I knew he was the one and my excitement grew. The distance and time between us not withstanding, I felt sure that given the opportunity, I would take this sheep home.

As day broke the morning of day seven all eyes were on the mountainside where the ram had been spotted the night before. The experience of crossing upriver and stalking this magnificent 12-year-old animal for over three hours, waiting for him to turn away so we could move silently to the next line of trees until finally, there were no more trees to cover us, kept the suspense palpable as our anticipation mounted. After I finally took the big ram, Greg and the guides congratulated me with hugs, laughter and tears and I was again reminded of the fact that it is about the journey, not a punched tag.

This Dall's Sheep hunt became a life-changing moment in time that I find myself referring to daily, as a reminder of my abilities, my amazing husband and the blessing I have been given with my marriage, and the reason I hunt.



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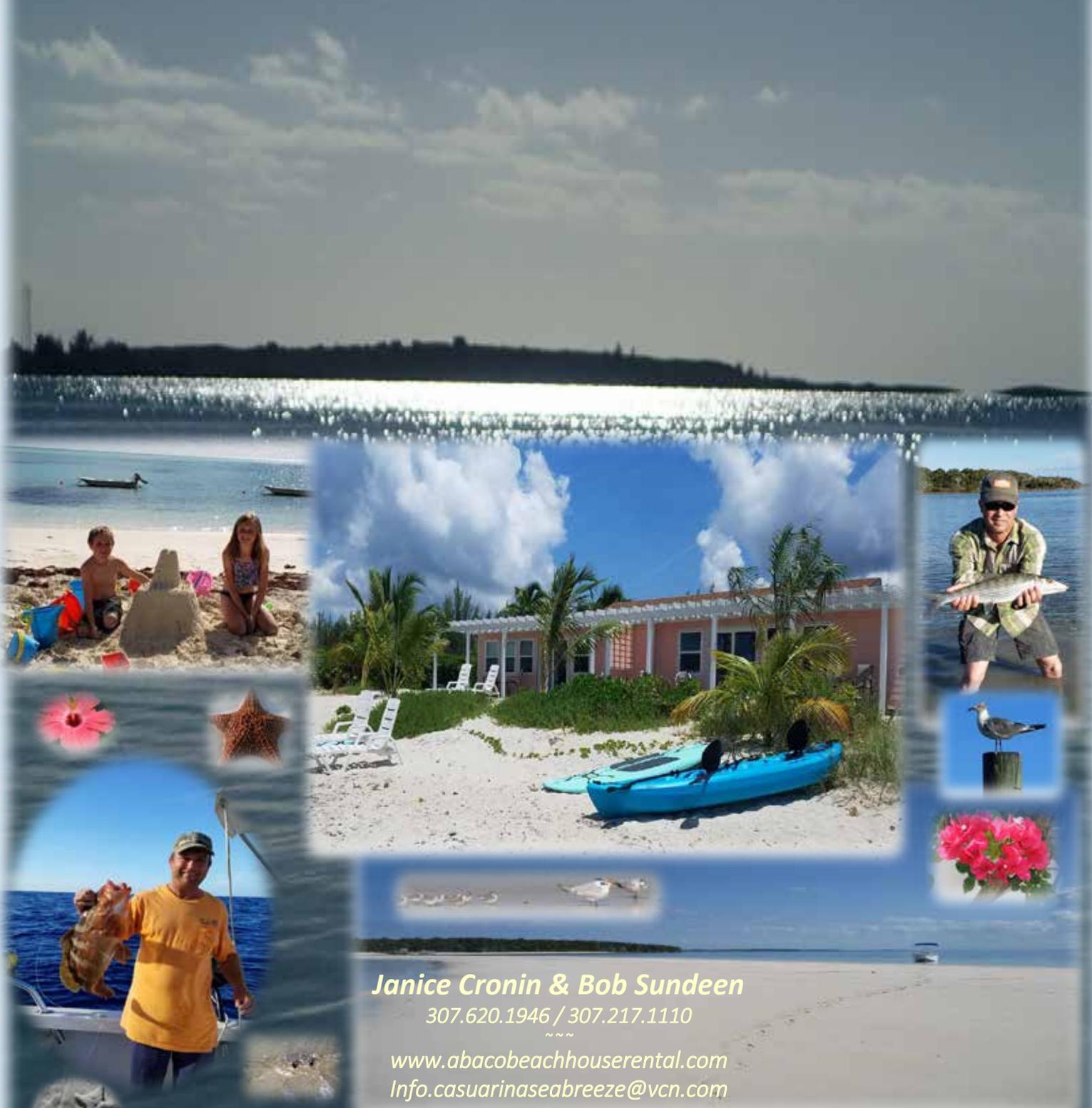
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# Quiz Gets His Ram

By RHS Life Member # 610, Steve Quisenberry

I grew up in Virginia where my love for hunting and fishing was always very much alive and either by actual participation, or by dreaming, was in the forefront of my thoughts daily. The big game hunting in Virginia is basically whitetail deer with some limited opportunity for black bear. Myself and my buddies spent countless days scouting the forest and farmlands to find bedding areas, travel corridors and funnels for the bucks. We became somewhat good at it, but as with most things we were always searching for the ever elusive "bigger buck".

After college I was fortunate to land a great sales job in Virginia Beach, VA. and with the amount of saltwater fishing available, my outdoors efforts soon shifted to that. Having the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Gulf Stream both within boat ride distances, I spent the next 25 years doing some whitetail deer and duck and goose hunting and a lot of saltwater fishing. I was very fortunate and fished many days a year offshore and in the bay. Additionally, I fished a lot of offshore tournaments and had some decent success.

It was on an offshore fishing trip three years ago that I met Doug Bennett. It's not uncommon to end up spending the day with friends of friends on an offshore fishing trip. When this happens, hours are spent in conversation with these newfound buddies while trolling. Doug is on the board of directors for the Eastern Chapter of the WSF. Of course, at some point our conversation drifted to hunting, and if you've ever met Doug, that means sheep hunting. I was mesmerized. Doug had been on two sheep hunts and had just won a lottery draw with the ECWSF that was going to allow him to chase the other two sheep species for the slam. I got so intensely excited that I wore Doug out for the rest of the trip about all his experiences. Where,

when, how, equipment, physicality? He was extremely patient and genuinely eager to share his sheep hunting knowledge. I can honestly say that I got off the boat that day with one mission on my mind. I was going to go on a sheep hunt!

In the coming weeks my obsessive personality kicked in and I could not focus on anything outside of work and family other than learning everything I could about sheep hunting. And I learned a lot. I learned that at 58 years of age and NO preference points

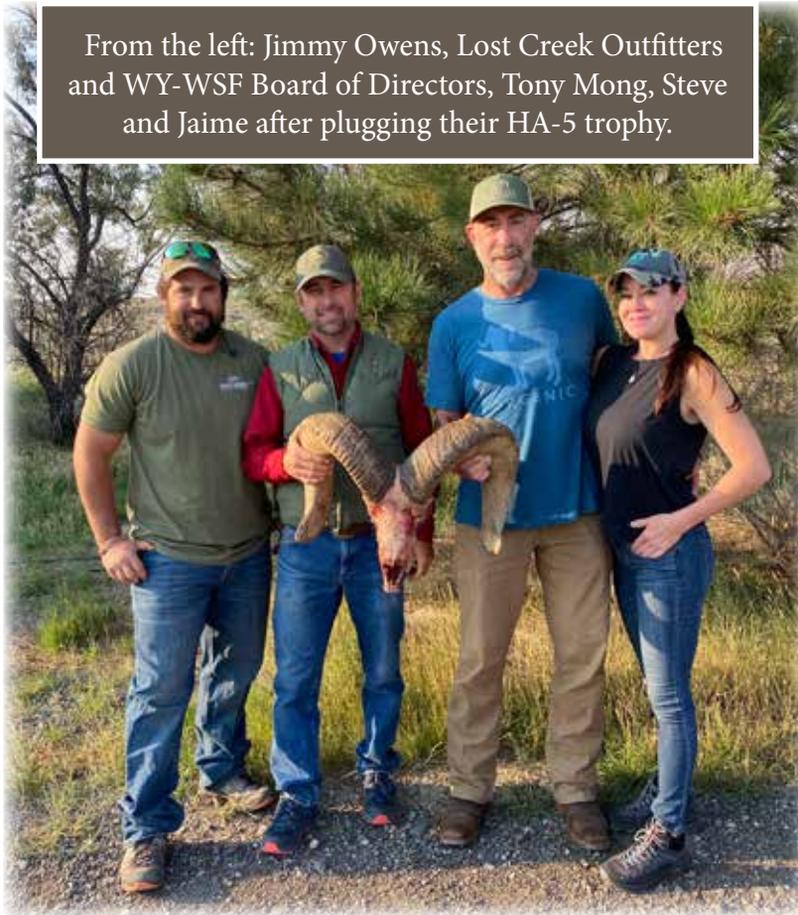
reached out by phone to the ECWSF since that would be my home chapter. The contact for ECWSF, at the time was Tina Everhart. She could not have been more welcoming and informative. She educated me on how a chapter of the WSF operates, what the banquets are all about, and what the lottery opportunities looked like. I was all in. And then, COVID hit. Everything went remote so I started participating remotely when I could. My chance to network with other members and sheep hunters to find a way to find a hunt had been postponed and now, at 59 years old, I was feeling the pressure of father time. I had to go to plan B.

Several times in the past, I had been on various species hunts using outfitters with landowner tags. My go to guy to find these hunts has been Kevin Slaughter of Antlers and Anglers Worldwide. Kevin has a knack of finding quality hunts that meet a hunter's specific needs. Through my research it was my feeling that the most difficult of the sheep hunts would be an unsupported backpack hunt for a Dall sheep, so I had Kevin focus on that. I wanted to get the harder hunt out of the way before I got too old. Kevin found a hunt in the Wrangell Mountain Range in Alaska with Cabot Pitts of Alaska Wild Wind Adventures. After several emails back and forth, I booked a Dall hunt for August 20,

2021. Jaime Brennan, my partner of 12 years would accompany me as an observer and the hunt was two years away. She was as excited as I was.

Now it was time to focus on my participation in the ECWSF. I really wanted to find out how a guy on the east coast could help the wild sheep. About the time I was starting dialogue with Doug Bennett and Tina, I received an email about the 2021 ECWSF remote banquet dinner raffle. There were several items to be raffled

From the left: Jimmy Owens, Lost Creek Outfitters and WY-WSF Board of Directors, Tony Mong, Steve and Jaime after plugging their HA-5 trophy.



in any states, an average guy bank account, and being one year post op from open heart surgery for an aneurysm physically, the odds of me becoming a sheep hunter were not in my favor. I have a good buddy who has had the motto "refuse to lose" forever. That's how I began to think about trying to go sheep hunting.

The first thing I did was reach out to the ECWSF and WSF to join and find out what I could do to participate. I joined both as a life member and

and two items had my attention. One was a Bighorn Sheep Governors Tag sponsored by the Wyoming Chapter of the WSF and the other was a NZ Tahr hunt. I had not forgotten the story Doug told me on the fishing boat about winning the raffle from ECWSF, so I immediately bought a couple tickets for each. I was so excited and quick to react, I think my tickets for the Bighorn were 005 & 006. Now it was a waiting game for February 27, 2021. The day of the annual ECWSF meeting and banquet.

As I thought about the WSF, their mission and the positive effect they could have on the wild sheep populations, I wanted to do more but with COVID it was not going to be in person. I also thought about how WY-WSF had a part in the Bighorn Governors tag raffle. Being an average Joe financially and not having any preference points a chance at that Bighorn hunt was really something special. My solution to play it forward was to join the WY-WSF chapter and in January 2021 I became a life member of that chapter. My contact with WY-WSF was Dean DiJenno. Now those of you who know Dean, know he is the encyclopedia of knowledge for WSF and its chapters. My interactions with Dean were extremely informative and so welcoming it was like we had known each other for a long time. I continued to build my knowledge of everything to do with sheep hunting, the sheep species and the WSF organization.

My plan for the ECWSF annual conference was to get comfortable with my laptop and participate as much as possible. I would have a great dinner with Jaime and pour a nice bourbon to watch the raffles. They raffles were to start at 6:00 ending with the Governors tag Bighorn hunt at 7:00. February 27th arrived, and I put my plan in action. The day of webcast seminars were very well done and informative. I learned a lot. There was a break in the webcast before the raffles. I got my bourbon poured and waited for the start of the drawings. They were running a little behind and started around 6:15. I eagerly waited for them to get through the items and finally they got to the NZ Tahr hunt. They did not pull my ticket and I remember thinking how lucky the winner was. Then to add to my anxiousness, they took a break before the Bighorn drawing. At about 6:40 my parents showed up for a visit. I knew the Bighorn tag drawing was at 7:00 so I got up to welcome them and get another bourbon. At 6:50 my email notification pinged. When I looked at it, it was Dean from the WY-WSF saying that they had just pulled my ticket for the Governors

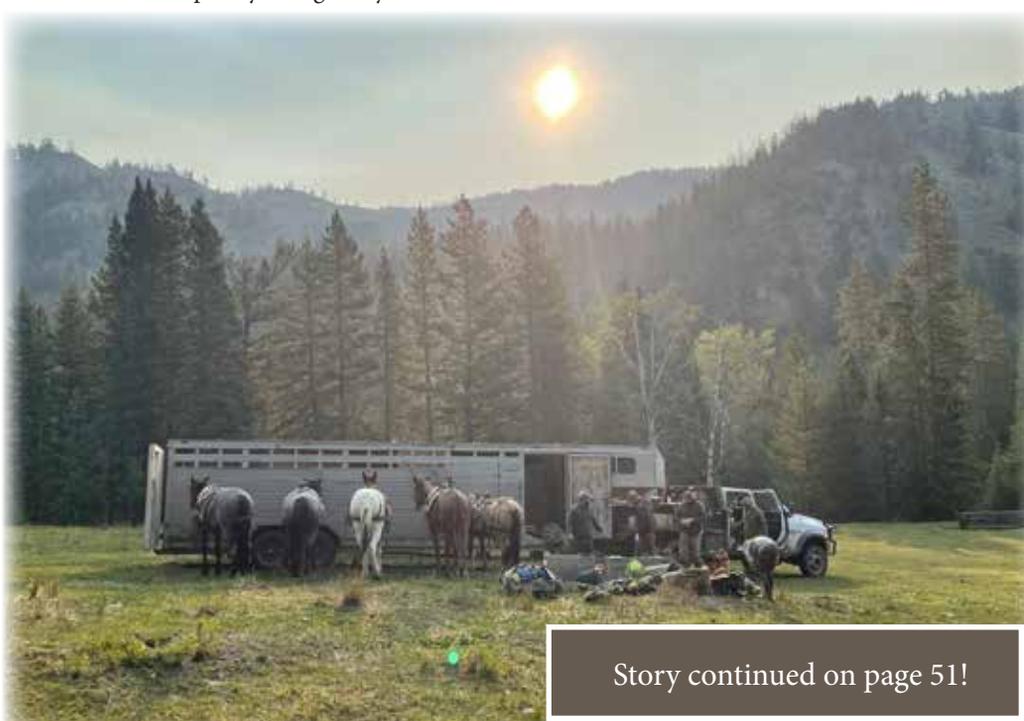
Tag! They drew early and I had missed the actual drawing. I immediately jumped on my laptop and at the same time got the call to let me know I had won. I was in totally disbelief and shock. As it started to sink in, Dean and I traded emails several times. He gave me Jimmy Owens name and number. Jimmy owns Lost Creek Outfitters in Cody, WY and would be outfitting the hunt. I called Jimmy to share my excitement. I also talked to Doug Bennett who had lit the fire in my soul for sheep hunting. After that, that night is kind of a blur. I was up until 3:00 AM Sunday trading text and calls with anyone I thought could share in my good fortune.

Several days went by and it started to sink in. I was now totally immersed in preparing for this hunt. I talked to Jimmy to find out when the best time to come out was and he told me September 1st. That was great except I wasn't supposed to return from my AK Dall Sheep hunt until Sept. 3rd. Wow! I thought it was insane that I actually had that problem. Can you imagine?? Ultimately Jimmy and I decided I would fly to Cody, WY on Sept 5th and begin the hunt on Sept 6th. So basically, I would get home from my Dall hunt, wash my gear, repack, and head out to my Governors Tag Bighorn hunt. The Bighorn hunt would be a horseback hunt and I had never ridden a horse. I also knew I was not in "sheep shape". I had a lot of work to do. Additionally, Jaime could not take off from work for the time both hunts would take so she had a decision to make.

Jaime and I formulated a plan. Since the WY Bighorn hunt was truly the hunt of a lifetime, she would skip the AK Dall hunt and go on the Bighorn hunt. We started horseback riding lessons, I completely changed my diet

and began working out specifically for packing in the mountains. Once again, my obsessive personality took over and except for work and family I lived and breathed preparation for sheep hunting. I communicated routinely with Jimmy Owens and Dean DiJenno. They could not have been more patient, informative, and supportive with my "beginners" questions. During these conversations, they informed me that the WY-WSF banquet would be a live event on June 4-5th in Casper, WY. I decided to attend to show my appreciation and support for WY-WSF. Jaime and I made reservations and set out to attend the seminars and the banquet.

We arrived in Casper the day before the conference started and spent the day exploring. Dean had made arrangements for us to attend the WY-WSF board of directors' pre-conference dinner that night to meet the board. We were warmly welcomed by each one of them. I found the conversations extremely thought provoking and the amount of comradery and focus on their mission for the sheep was motivating to say the least. I can tell you that some of the smartest minds out there as far as protecting and replenishing the wild sheep were at that dinner. The seminars the next day contained much of the information I had been searching for to educate myself on wild sheep and how a WSF chapter helps the various species. With each level of knowledge my desire to be involved increased. I had made arrangements for Jaime and I to sit at a table with Jimmy Owens, his partner Jozie Coy, and any of the Lost Creek Outfitters crew that would be in attendance. Our table ended up being Jimmy and Jozie, Josh Taylor and his boys Jax and Jhett, and BJoe Coy.



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2021 Partner Award Goes to  
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RHS Life Member #028  
Craig Kling - LM Incentive Winner



A crowd numbering 367 helped raise  
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# Annual Convention

John Barrasso,  
Gray Thornton with  
Brough.



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Photos by Danyelle Pace and  
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RHS Life Member #265  
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# MO AND ARMOND GO CRANE HUNTING

BY ARMOND ACRI AND MO O'LEARY

## September 1st:

This morning Mo and I hunted for cranes and Canada geese. We got up at 3:30 and met our friend JB around 5 am at his house. We followed him to his secret spot North of Afton. Mo and I set out 3 full body crane decoys and a dozen crane Sillosocks. We also set out a dozen Canada goose silhouettes. Since the Eastern half of the field was not cut, we had to carry everything in, so we went minimalist. We could not drive and the grass was too high to pull a sled, so we left the chairs and the blinds behind. Instead we hid behind a "Big Red Moo Cow" decoy that we placed in front of a hay bale in the field. The west side had a lot of windrows, and some big bales that were still in the field. Joe set up in

a nearby cat tail slough with a full body crane decoy and 2 Bigfoot "Bull" decoys.

The birds started moving as we finished setting up the decoys. We had a pair of cranes skirt the decoys, just out of range. Then a single went straight overhead, but it was too high. Finally a group of 5 went left at about 40 yards. Mo and I both shot, then followed up with another shot when the birds did not drop right away. Both birds folded and hit the ground. I was so focused on my bird and following through that I panicked for a second after I saw my bird fold and saw a second bird fold. Then I remembered Mo was shooting too! I let them lay for a while to make sure the birds were dead before I sent the dogs. They each got a chance to retrieve. They were two big adults, 10.5 and 13.5 pounds. It was old hat for Hammer, but Raven got her first crane retrieve. Our crane permits were filled by 6:45. We hung out for a while waiting

to see if we could decoy any geese. Twice we had singles go outside the decoys at 50 yards. I held off hoping they would circle closer, but they did not. When things slowed down around 9 am, the local warden came out in the field to check our licenses and our birds. While we were stand near the decoys talking, a single one crane came within 30 yards before it broke off. I think if we had been hidden, it might have tried to land in the decoys. We waited till 10am and missed a 50 yard shot at the only goose that's came in range.

Mo was using her 12 gauge with #2 Hevi-X shot. I was using my 10 gauge with steel BBs. Both of us used modified chokes, which was probably the right choke for the 40 yard shot we took at the cranes. Both shells performed well. Both birds were hit with multiple pellets in the neck, body, wings and legs.

It was a good start to the season.





## NBSC Fall Update by Executive Director Sara Bridge

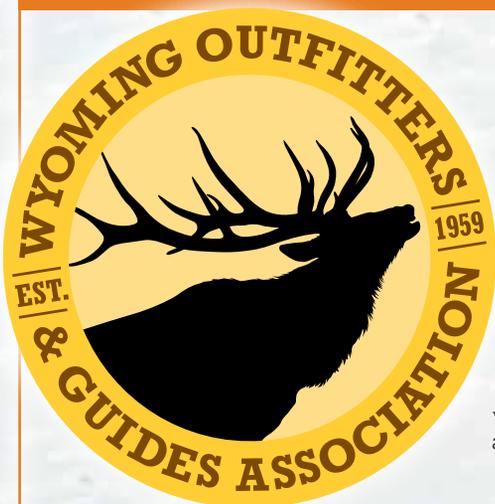


The National Bighorn Sheep Center launched its 3rd year of Camp Bighorn August 9th - 13th! Camp Bighorn is a place-based outdoor program for youth where we inspire, educate, and instill the concept of conservation in young hearts. The Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation has been our biggest supporter of this program. We and the youth who have attended are forever grateful to our supporters. Having received \$4,700 from sponsors, our scholarship pool reached a new record this year. Every child who requested a sponsorship received one. This year 11 boys and 10 girls ages 8-12 from the Wyoming towns of Lander, Dubois, Encampment, Pavillion, Riverton, and Shoshoni joined us for our day-camp. Others fared from Montana, Minnesota, and California. Historically an overnight camp, we revised our program to a day camp due to COVID-19 restrictions. Our schedule included kayaking, archery, fly-tying, wildlife art with watercolors, an edible and medicinal plants hike, water ecology, the art of taxidermy, a petroglyph trek, and exploration of various ecosystems, all with a focus on conservation of wild sheep, wildlife and wild lands. We received several notes from parents and campers such as the one below:  
"I wanted to pass along a note of thanks for providing such an amazing week for the Camp Bighorn campers! They had an excellent time and really enjoyed the activities this year. What an amazing facility to host a camp. Thank you for giving the kids an opportunity to have a fun experience after a rough COVID year. I think every kid appreciated meeting new friends, spending time

outdoors, and learning something new. I think all the kids needed an experience like you provided this summer more than ever. Thanks to all of the staff and volunteers that made this camp possible. I know that a lot of hard work and planning goes into a successful week and I appreciate all of those efforts." To our sponsors - thank you for giving the gift of conservation. Through this program, we see conservation change from a concept to a value.



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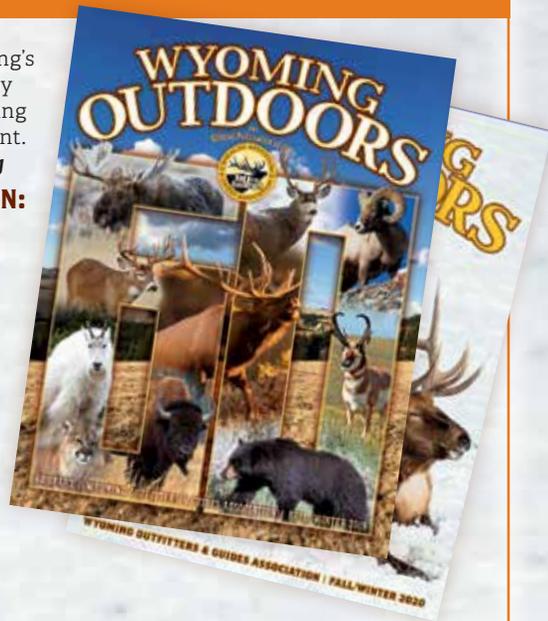
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# GRANT IN AID UPDATES

## Custer State Park Work Project

By RHS Life Member #20, Kevin Hurley

Toiling under the hot mid-July sun, more than 25 bighorn sheep conservationists gathered July 17-18, 2021, in Custer State Park (CSP), in the Black Hills of South Dakota, for a bighorn sheep habitat improvement volunteer project. While no comparison can be made to the hordes of bikers/motorcyclists that descend on Sturgis, SD every year, our band of volunteers was every bit as intrepid and energetic as any Black Hills visitors would be. The weekend's goals were to cut down 4-9" DBH Ponderosa Pine seedlings that have re-generated on two sites totaling more than 13 acres since the 2007 Four Mile Fire in CSP.

Tapping into volunteers from the

Wild Sheep Foundation (WSF), WSF Midwest, WSF Wyoming, plus sportsmen and women from the greater Black Hills area, even including some young, strapping volunteers from Ellsworth Air Force Base who helped out, our volunteer crew used chainsaws, loppers, bowsaws, and other small power and hand-equipment to drop/lop/scatter ponderosa pine regen in two different work sites, straddling Highway 87, in the SW portion of CSP. In addition, a small work party cleaved off from our larger crew, to assist the Mystic Ranger District of the Black Hills National Forest repair a water development/guzzler site in Black Hills bighorn range.

Critical to the success of this project was the advance work done with Cabela's retail store in Rapid City, SD, where Cabela's "outfitters" (i.e., retail store associates) and customers were contacted/invited to join this volunteer work project. Even folks from Cabela's Outdoor Fund HQ office in Springfield, MO came to the Black Hills to participate, and to encourage Cabela's staffers to become involved in "hands-on" bighorn sheep conservation.

Reducing shrub and small tree cover opens visibility for foraging/travelling bighorn sheep, enhancing foraging efficiency and enabling better detection of ground-based predators



(e.g., coyote, mountain lion). Working closely with South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks (SDGF&P) habitat, wildlife, and forestry staff and Cabela's corporate and retail staff, lead project organizer Kevin Hurley with WSF planned this project for weeks in advance, culminating in a successful bighorn sheep habitat improvement project.

“Once again, our thanks to the dedicated conservationists who gave up another of their precious summer weekends, to implement an important habitat project which will benefit bighorn sheep in the Black Hills of south Dakota”, said Hurley, WSF Vice-President for Conservation. “And, special thanks to Bass Pro Shops/Cabela's Outdoor Fund and Cabela's retail store in Rapid City for their funding, logistical, and personnel support” added Hurley.







Ross Gorman  
PHOTOGRAPHY

# GRANT IN AID UPDATES

## Whiskey Basin Bighorn Sheep Winter Range Habitat Update By Amy Anderson, Habitat Biologist, Lander, WY G&F Dept.

There were several projects of note that occurred during Summer 2021 within the Whiskey Basin Wildlife Habitat Management Area to improve habitats for a struggling sheep herd. In March, the Shoshone National Forest

will be a mixture of native and introduced species all known to provide high quality forage for bighorn sheep. This project was funded by the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation and Wyoming Governor's Big Game License

Coalition, and was pulled off with a big hat's off to the Shoshone National Forest and WGFD Habitat and Access personnel. In July, an aerial application of Rejuvra (Indaziflam) herbicide to the Torrey Rim slope was conducted. Rejuvra is the newest product of note for use in controlling cheatgrass. It does not cause damage to perennial grass, forb or shrub species, and shows excellent control of cheatgrass for up to 5 years (although we are seeing closer to 3 years of control in other areas around the Lander Region). Pre-treatment monitoring of Torrey Rim just above the Conservation Camp showed several areas of very high concentrations of cheatgrass, so the treatment was well-timed to get a handle on the seed source. Follow up monitoring will occur annually to help determine when additional treatment is necessary. As always, we are grateful for the on-going support we get from the WWSF and its members to put habitat projects on the ground for the benefit of bighorn sheep.



assisted Wyoming Game and Fish Department in burning the Trail Lake Meadow in order to control smooth brome and basin wild rye, both of which are relatively undesirable to bighorn sheep. The meadow will be seeded to a more sheep-friendly seed mix in the early spring of 2022. The seed



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# GRANT IN AID UPDATES

## Encampment River Bighorn Sheep

By Teal Cufade, G&F Wildlife Biologist

**We** kicked off 2021 with the final capture and collar event in this herd.

Due to the generosity of Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation and Wyoming Governor's Big Game License Coalition we were able to collar an additional 10 bighorn sheep.

Collaring sheep in this herd unit began in 2018 as part of a statewide disease assessment effort. Respiratory pathogens (*Mannheimia*

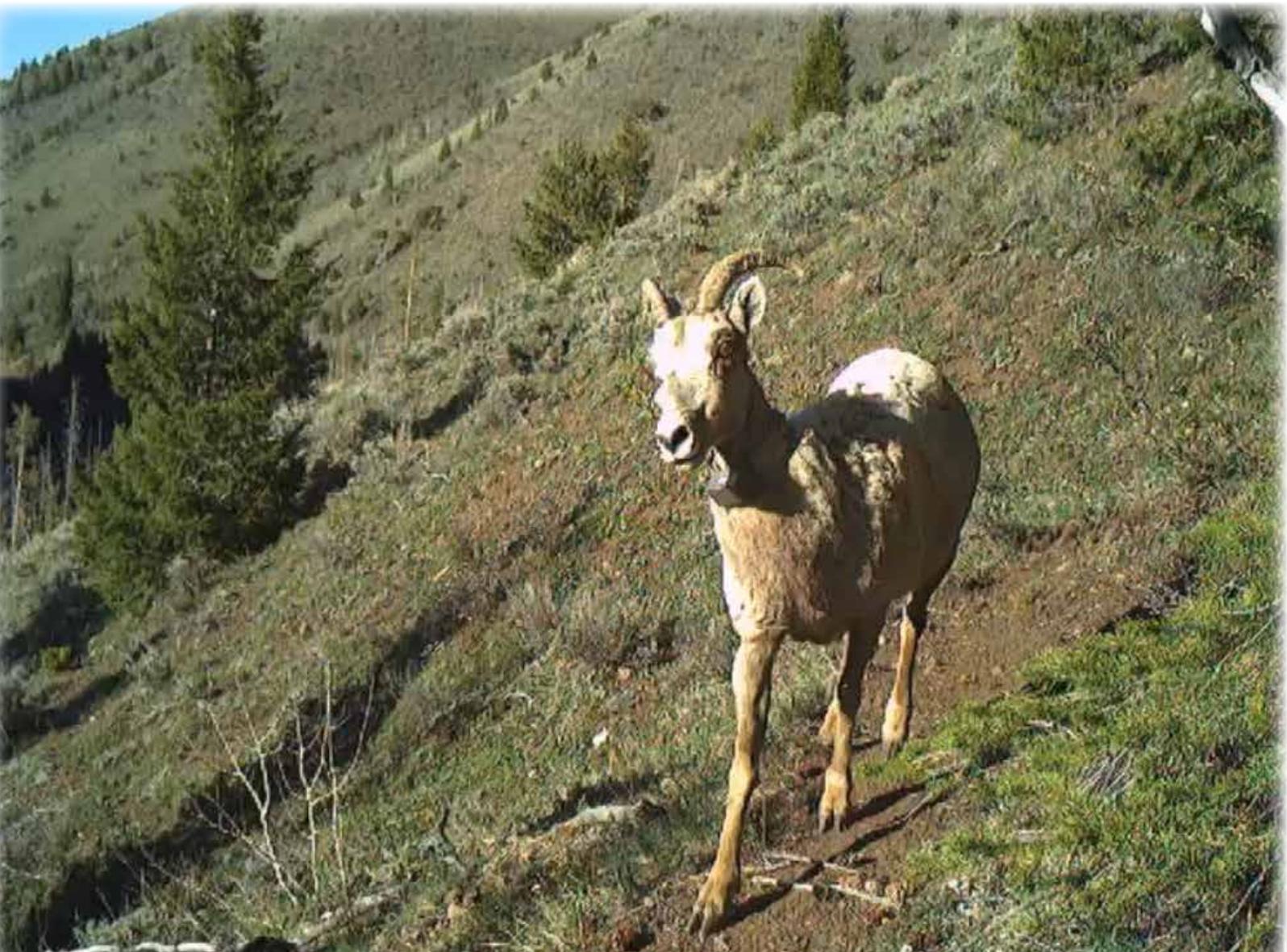
spp.) were detected in five of the 10 recently captured sheep, which is similar to the disease testing results in previous Encampment captures.

Data gathered from the 20 GPS collars will also be used for habitat selection analyses. We hope to use the hourly location data collected from each collared bighorn sheep to plan and prioritize future habitat projects in the herd unit.

Since January, we have collected over 4,000 locations on these 20

collared ewes. The location dataset will be much larger when we retrieve collars after their release date in November 2022 and 2023.

Survival of collared sheep was exceptional over the last two years, with only one mortality to date. Over 40 sheep (ewes, lambs, and yearling rams) were consistently observed together throughout late July and early August. The lamb ratio in this group was approximately 45 lambs:100 ewes. Additionally 15 rams were observed throughout the summer.



# GRANT IN AID UPDATES

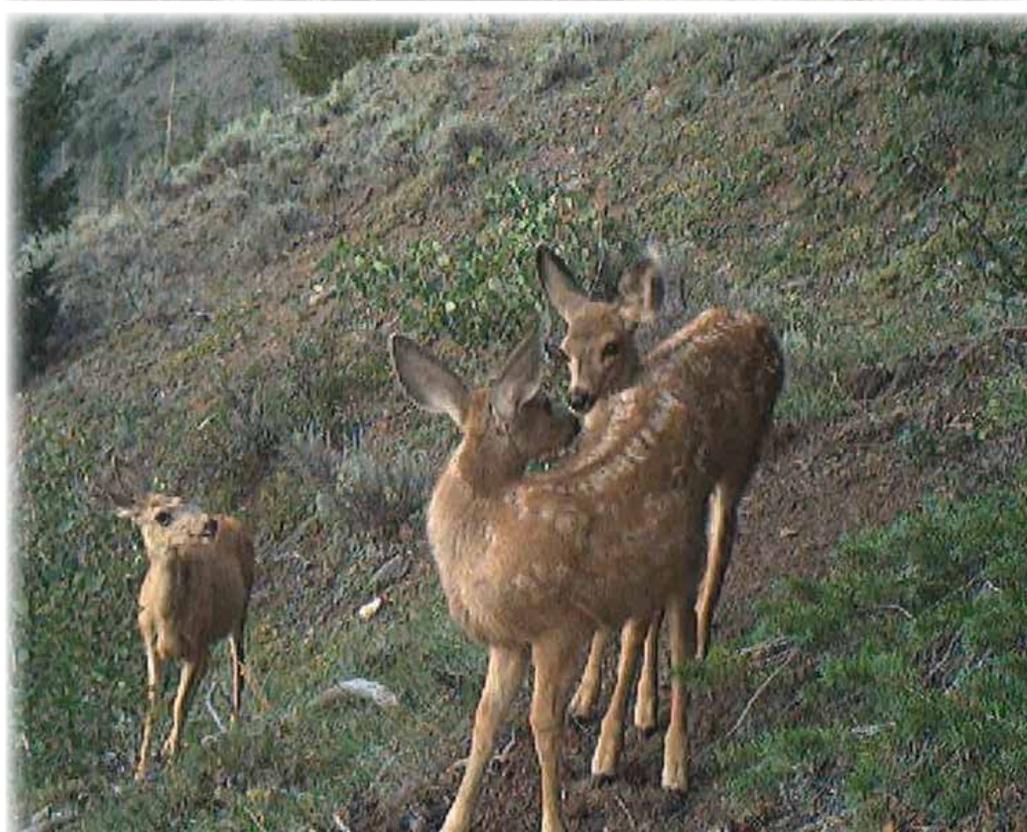
## “The Big Picture”

By Jordan Seitz, Encampment Teacher

Last winter the Encampment sixth grade class received two trail cameras through a donation (see Spring 2021 RAMPAGE) and practiced setting them in a nearby drainage. A Bar A Ranch expedition directors Burk Knowlton and Benjy Duke, and outdoor photographer Mike Forsberg, invited us on several hikes to check out their trail camera migration project and see Mike’s custom remote cameras. We learned about different setups to avoid false triggers and maximize data, learned about black infrared LED light (invisible to wildlife), and thought about the big picture - the story - for a location.

In May we hiked into the Encampment River watershed and set our cameras with bighorn sheep in mind. The anticipation was high by the time we returned to check them at the end of September. Game and Fish biologists Teal Cufaude and Britt Brito, and game warden Levi Wood, joined us. En route we saw two collared ewes with two lambs. Teal used her telemetry equipment to identify which collars they were wearing, so she could track the future survival of their lambs. Shortly after, students used maps and compasses to orient themselves and navigate to the first camera location. We used an adapter to directly load some video clips onto a tablet; it was fascinating footage! The second location was even better! In the classroom we analyzed nearly 700 ten-second clips. We knew many animals were sharing the landscape, but didn’t anticipate how many shared the same trails. Combining the data, our cameras have recorded: bighorn sheep (rams, ewes, lambs), elk, mule deer, pronghorn, bears, a lion, a fox, coyotes, cattle, a moose, a marmot, a mink, a skunk, hounds, hunters, and multiple bird species. One camera was left in place to gather data through the fall and winter. The other will be relocated to another trail closer to school.

Photo Credits on Pages 37 & 38  
Jordan Seitz



# 2021 Seminoe Guzzler Project

By LM #518, Mike Murray

Thanks to the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation, with the help of BLM Wyoming Rawlins Field Office staff, bighorn sheep in the Seminoe Mountain Range have a new watering hole. Last month, staff from the Rawlins Field Office worked side-by-side with the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation to complete another wildlife guzzler project.

This makes the eighth wildlife guzzler that they have helped install across the Ferris, Seminoe and Bennett Mountain Ranges, benefiting the bighorn sheep.

Not only has the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation helped fund most of these projects, but they have also taken on the lion's share of

the labor that goes into their actual installations.

## **Volunteers:**

**Mike Murray**

**Chris Otto**

**John Harris**

**Judy Archie**

**Joni Miller**

**Mac Miller**

**Bralli Clifford**

**Reese Irvine**

**Katie Cheesbrough**

**Casey Cheesbrough**

**Mark Conrad**

**Tom Trapp**

**Vic Dana**





Our 2020 Project was full of water this August.



The collection mat is ready to funnel water to the guzzler



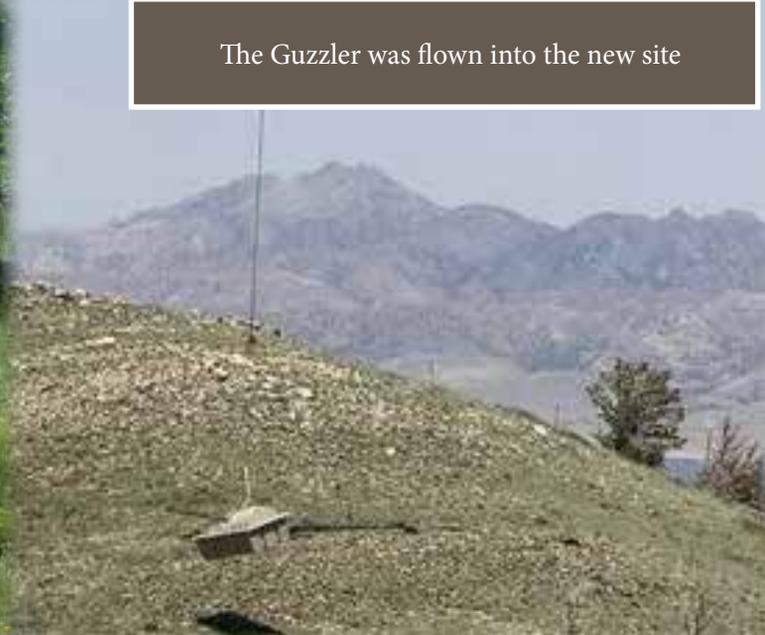
Check out this herd on the Miracle Mile near our Camp Site!

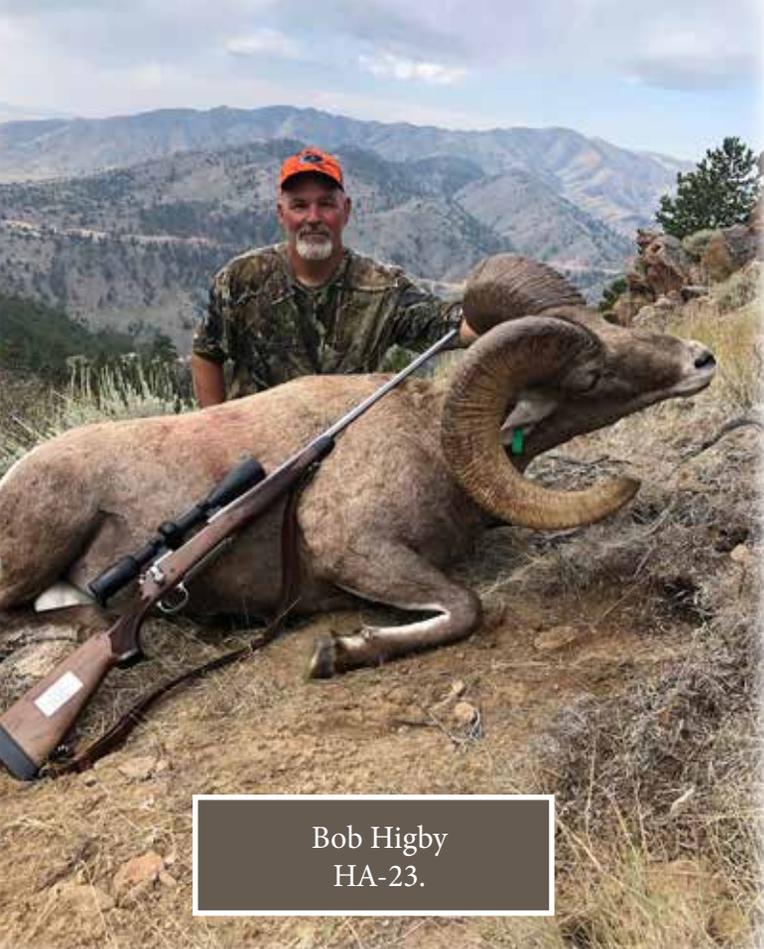


The Guzzler was flown into the new site

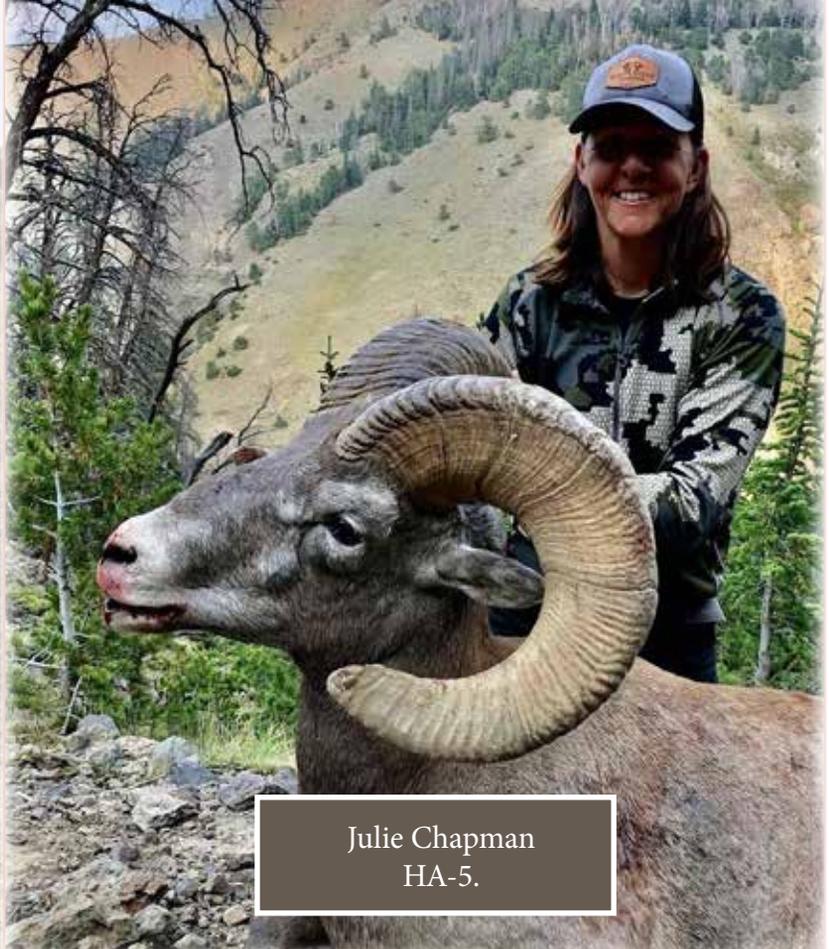


Bighorns near one of our Seminole Guzzlers.





Bob Higby  
HA-23.



Julie Chapman  
HA-5.

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# GRANT IN AID UPDATES

## Teton Bighorn Sheep and Winter Recreation Collaborative Process By Aly Courtemanch, Wildlife Biologist, Wyoming G&F Department

It was a bitterly cold morning when our helicopter lifted off from the Wyoming Game and Fish Office in Jackson and headed west toward the Teton Range. But the cabin warmed up quickly as the morning sun shone through the brilliant blue sky. We were on a mission to survey the small and isolated Teton Bighorn Sheep Herd (also known as the Targhee Herd) that spends the winter high in the Tetons. Due to historical loss of migration, these sheep spend the winter on windswept and rocky slopes at high elevations, surviving by conserving energy and living off of their fat stores. However, during our flight we saw disturbing evidence that sheep were expending unnecessary energy trying to avoid a perceived predator; not mountain lions...but people. We saw fresh ski tracks on top of sheep foraging craters in the snow and a group of skiers were poised to descend a snow chute, unaware that a group of sheep stood on the cliffs below. As we landed for fuel a couple hours later, I was thinking that we have to solve this issue...and fast.

Thanks to research on the Teton Bighorn Sheep Herd that WY-WSF helped fund from 2008-2010, we know that backcountry skiing negatively impacts sheep. Sheep avoid backcountry skiing areas, even if those areas are suitable

winter habitat. Also, sheep that live in areas with higher backcountry skiing activity move around more on a daily basis, expending more energy, than sheep that live in areas with less skiing activity. However, we also know that backcountry skiing in the Tetons has a rich history and is highly valued by the local community. Because of the emotion and value that people hold for backcountry skiing, we knew that this would be a difficult and controversial problem to tackle.

In 2017, the Teton Range Bighorn Sheep Working Group began an effort to raise awareness within the community about this issue and begin conversations about potential solutions. We had “coffee-cup” conversations with over 80 influential people in the community and we launched a public collaborative process in 2020. The collaborative public process consisted of a series of meetings to understand the issue from all sides, involve all stakeholders, and develop collaborative solutions that the community could support. WY-WSF generously funded this effort, along with many other partners, which allowed us to hire a professional facilitator and venue space.

From February – June 2020, 158 people participated in at least one of the five collaborative meetings to craft solutions to this issue that balance bighorn sheep habitat needs with continued backcountry skiing access. Many people attended multiple meetings and were intensely involved.

Participants included backcountry skiers, commercial guides, wildlife advocates, business leaders, Jackson Hole Mountain Resort, and County Commissioners. Unfortunately, the COVID pandemic slowed down the process substantially, but the Teton Range Bighorn Sheep Working Group is planning to share final recommendations and wrap up this process in October 2021. As a result of the collaborative process, the Working Group is recommending 62 actions, which include increased public outreach and education, signage, enhanced monitoring of bighorn sheep and human use, habitat treatments with prescribed fire and wildland fire, new or expanded winter closures in some areas, areas to maintain current recreational access, designated travel routes, a citizen science project to help collect data, and experimental actions followed up with intensive monitoring. You can go to [www.tetonsheep.org](http://www.tetonsheep.org) to read the final report and outcomes.

A related issue is the proposed expansion of the Grand Targhee Ski Resort near Alta, Wyoming into Teton Canyon. A portion of the proposed expansion area, which would include chairlifts, trail grooming, and potentially summer activity would overlap with bighorn sheep winter and summer habitat, as well as important movement route to a natural mineral lick. Unfortunately, we lack data points showing bighorn sheep using this area in the winter time, which would help demonstrate its importance to sheep. Therefore, WY-WSF generously granted an emergency request for additional helicopter flight time to survey this area in April 2021. Unfortunately, we did not see any sheep using the area during the flight.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement with this small, but important bighorn sheep herd!



Helicopter view of bighorn sheep habitat on the north slope of Teton Canyon in Caribou-Targhee National Forest where Grand Targhee Resort is proposing to expand

# WY-WSF WELCOMES SCOTT SMITH TO IT'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Scott joined the WY-WSF Board of Directors for a two year term this past June. He left a small farming community in north-central Ohio and moved to Wyoming when he was 17 following high school. He graduated from the University of Wyoming with a BS in Range Management and a MS in Zoology. He began his 35+ year career with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department after completing his MS studying bighorn sheep on the South Fork of the Shoshone River. Scott worked his way up through the ranks as a wildlife biologist and retired in May 2019 as Deputy Director.

Scott and his wife Judy reside in Pinedale and have enjoyed the beautiful scenery of the Upper Green River Basin for the past

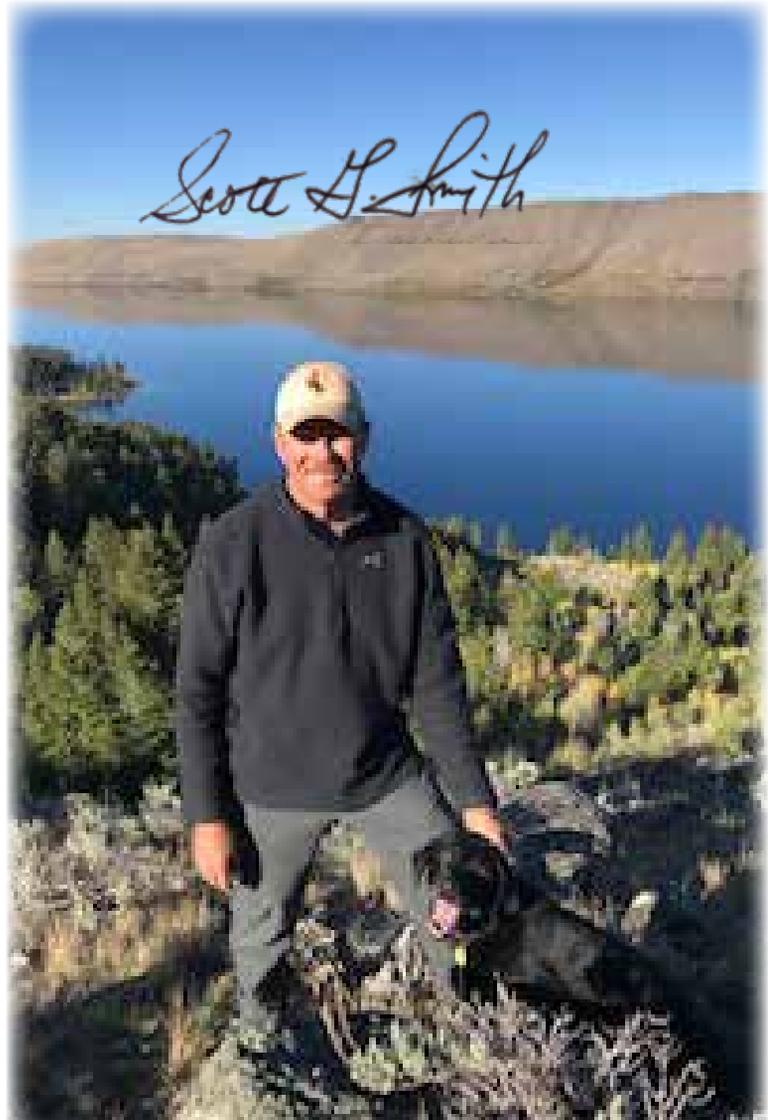
30 years. They have 2 sons and 5 grandchildren. Scott and his wife enjoy spending time fishing on the lakes around Pinedale as well as hunting, golfing, gardening, cross country skiing and of course “grandkid time”.

Scott's passion for bighorn sheep began in earnest while conducting research on the South Fork and continued during his tenure as wildlife biologist and administrator for Game and Fish. Seeing first-hand how sound population and habitat management enhances bighorn sheep throughout the State, Scott was eager to join the Board at WY-WSF to continue putting projects on-the-ground to maintain healthy wild sheep.

**“Throughout my career at Game and Fish, I recognized that partnerships in wildlife conservation are the most cost-effective (and productive) means of achieving multiple objectives. While on the Board, my goal is to work with a wide variety of individuals and organizations to help ensure WY-WSF success into the future.”**



People discuss ideas to balance Teton bighorn sheep habitat needs and backcountry skiing access during the community collaborative process.



# GRANT IN AID UPDATES

## Douglas Creek Herd Update

By G&F Terrestrial Habitat Biologist, Ryan Amundson

**Over** 176,000 acres were burned in the 2020 Mullen Fire in the Snowy Range, located west of Laramie. Landscape level disturbances like this have become much more frequent in the West in recent years. Many good things can come from these events, including setting back succession in plant communities, resulting in favorable conditions to grow important forage species such as grasses, forbs, and mixed mountain shrubs. The Snowy Range is a lodgepole pine dominated forest, and as we all know too well, bark beetle infestations over the last 20 years have resulted in large scale die-offs in this particular forest type throughout the Rocky Mountain region.

Fire intensity was high in large portions of this wildfire area. This can and has resulted in environments conducive to the invasion of noxious weeds, including cheatgrass. Proactive measures were taken by the USFS, WGFD, and several other conservation partners this past year. We were successful in securing over \$1 million to fight the invasion, and it all started with WY WSF's initial funding of \$10,000 towards the project! In June and July 2021, over 10,000 acres were sprayed via helicopter in areas known to currently be infested with cheatgrass,

or had high probability of occurring due to slope, aspect, and vegetation type present.

The herbicide used for this project is called Rejuvra. Applied at 5 oz/acre along with 6 gallons of water/acre as a carrier, it is sprayed prior to Fall germination periods of cheatgrass. The

perennial grasses, forbs, and shrubs to re-establish and dominate the sites. With their successful establishment and dominance of sites, cheatgrass should be kept to a minimum on the landscape in treated areas. If necessary, a second application may need completed on some, but not likely all, of the acres treated this year. Wyoming Game

and Fish and the U.S. Forest Service have established over 100 vegetation monitoring sites throughout treated and untreated areas impacted by the wildfire. Information gathered at these sites will help to inform us of when follow-up treatments may be necessary, impacts to non-targeted vegetative species, percent control of annual grasses, and native plant species recovery.

The acres treated in Summer 2021 include areas inhabited by the Douglas Creek bighorn sheep herd.



herbicide works to prevent germination of this competitive annual grass, yet allow for native plants to continue to grow and flourish. Native vegetation takes advantage of the decreased competition for moisture and nutrients that cheatgrass normally robs these ecosystems of. As of mid-September, we have yet to see any cheatgrass emerge in areas sprayed this summer. We anticipate at least 3 years of control post-herbicide application. In this amount of time, we anticipate native,

With widespread loss of conifer cover through the wildfire, many travel corridors for bighorns have been opened up. Access to rocky, steep escape terrain has also been increased dramatically in the North Platte River and associated tributaries.

In 2022, an additional 5,000 acres will be sprayed on the eastern flanks of the Snowy Range, which includes important transition and winter ranges for moose, mule deer, and elk.

# GRANT IN AID UPDATES

## Douglas Creek Herd Update

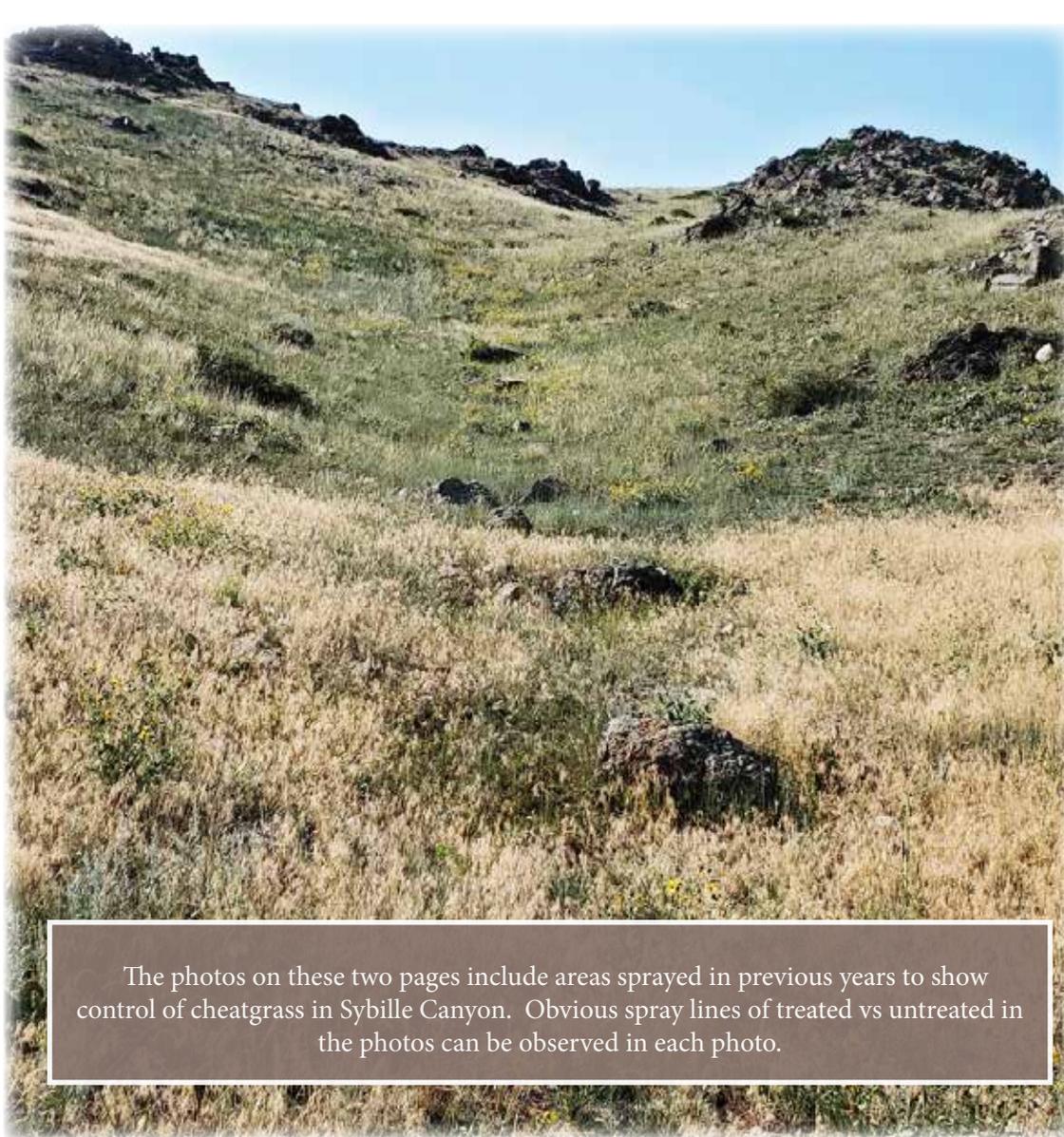
By G&F Biologist, Lee Knox

**Thanks** to WY WSF for getting the ball rolling in late 2020. Your financial contributions helped us convince several other partners to step up and assist!

The Douglas Creek herd, located in South Eastern Wyoming in the Snowy Range, was reestablished on historic sheep range through three transplants from the Whiskey Mountain herd in the 1970s. The population peaked around 245 animals in the early 1980s, then declined to around 75-100 animals, where it has oscillated for several decades. Managers have struggled to

identify the causes of the decline, or to isolate factors that continue to limit population growth. In January of 2019, to maximize the information gained from animals captured as part of a statewide bighorn sheep surveillance effort, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department outfitted 9 ewes in the Douglas Creek herd with GPS-enabled collars to gather information about movement and habitat use. Initial analyses indicated the sheep avoided steeper terrain and escape cover due to conifer encroachment, and used a very small portion of their potential habitat along the Platte River and Douglas drainages.

The Mullen Fire burned across 176,800 acres in the southern portion of the Snowy Range on the Medicine Bow National Forest, making it one of the largest wildfires in Wyoming history. This burned acreage included a substantial portion of the Douglas Creek bighorn sheep herd unit. The Mullen fire, and resulting habitat change, offers the potential for shifts in sheep distribution and perhaps population expansion. Of the original nine ewes collared in 2019, eight are still alive. The data we can still collect from these collars indicates ewes are traveling farther and staying longer in habitats that were not utilized pre fire. These collars are coming to their end of life and need replaced. This winter we will be collaring 20 sheep in the Douglas creek herd, including the eight ewes previously collared. Our work will help us to monitor the same individual sheep pre and post Mullen fire, and thereby providing a strong understanding of potential population expansion as well as change in habitat use. This work will also build on recent statewide disease surveillance efforts which are helping managers understand the degree to which disease and pathogen loads affect populations. The fine-scale movement data that we collect will help to delineate any changes in annual variation in seasonal movements, habitat selection and resource use post Mullen Creek fire and help us understand if future sheep transplants are warranted.



The photos on these two pages include areas sprayed in previous years to show control of cheatgrass in Sybille Canyon. Obvious spray lines of treated vs untreated in the photos can be observed in each photo.

# “A Lifelong Dream”

By RHS Life Member #410, Kurt Eisenach

Is there something that you have always dreamed of doing? I have had several but the latest I just completed was a DIY Alaska Caribou hunt with my son Calvin. I have been fortunate enough to travel north

to take us into the Brooks Range for Boo in Aug. 2021. A full year of dual option planning for both driving or flying to Alaska had us ready to go. I drove up 4 days after Canada opened its border with my buddy Chris Galloway as copilot.

not wipe the smile off our faces. We were into Caribou early the first day we could legally hunt and never went a day without seeing at least 50. Some days 10 to 20 times that many. By day five we had taken two bulls each with our bows and



several times to hunt for myself, but this trip would be different. As my son got into middle school, we talked about doing a caribou trip together. The years passed quickly, with college behind him and a solid future ahead, the time seemed right. At 64, with a few health issues my time was now. With a 28-year-old to pack meat for me, 2021 was it. The decline in hunting opportunities for Caribou across the north and Covid restrictions was making this much more difficult than in the past. This would be Calvin's first trip north and he was bursting with excitement to go. We started the process in 2019 and booked a charter flight

We went thru Banf and Jasper, saw Stone Sheep at Muncho Lake, and too much more to list here. Make the drive someday. It is worth it! In Fairbanks, I put Chris on a flight home and picked up Calvin. We spent the next day organizing and weighing the gear I had brought. We each purchased two Caribou tags, a wolf tag, and our hunting and fishing licenses. The weather cooperated and by 4 pm the next day we were in camp, an amazing valley right at the foot of the Brooks Range. We fished for grayling and watched Caribou, Moose and Grizzly's from camp. Calvin was amazed at the immensity of the country; you could

had them safely in camp. No shot was over 40 yds, and we had several stalking opportunities each day. As you can see from the pictures two are no doubt wall hangers. The weather had been wonderful with only a little rain. Flying conditions seemed excellent, so we asked for a meat run from our charter carrier via the inreach device we had with us. What a welcome change from years past when you had little or no means of communications. They arrived the next day and took the meat and antlers back to a freezer in Fairbanks. For the next five days we watched the Caribou stream by us. Sometimes in small

groups and at other times by the hundreds. It was a joy to observe this event that has been going on for ages. Neither one of us was ready to leave and we still had wolf tags in our pockets. My new Weatherby 280 ai backcountry was along for just such an opportunity. We caught grayling up to 18 inches long and watched moose in the mornings and evenings. Three grizzlies were observed on the neighboring mountain, but they were off limits to unguided nonresidents. Too bad as one was huge, and another had an amazing silverback coat. We took some hikes and spotted three different ewe lamb groups of Dall sheep. All to soon the plane came to pick us up on our scheduled departure date. No wolves but that did not matter. A dream for both of us was coming to an end. The memories we built and the bond we strengthened is our greatest reward. I have been so blessed by God to be able to experience his amazing world and share it with people that are close to me. I can't think of a better place to pay it back than by serving and supporting the WY WSF as a board member these past few years. My son and I have just completed one dream and now are planning the next. Don't you wait, do it while you have the health to climb a mountain and someone special to climb it with! Then pay back the blessings in a way that you see as meaningful.



Life member #499 Calvin Eisenach



# GRANT IN AID UPDATES

## Bighorn Sheep Nutrition and Disease – Autumn 2021 Update By Brittany Wagler, Rachel Smiley, and Kevin Monteith

In the Spring of 2021, the Bighorn Sheep Nutrition and Disease Project expanded to include a portion of the Whiskey Herd that lives on the West Side of the Continental divide. These sheep are high elevation residents that hang out in the peaks overlooking Green River Lakes all winter instead of migrating to lower elevations for the winter like the Dubois portion of the Whiskey herd and Jackson herd. When we captured the West Side sheep in March 2021, they were carrying more fat at the end of winter than the Dubois sheep have ever carried at the beginning of winter (when they are in their best condition). Many of the West Side ewes had snotty noses and were showing signs of pneumonia; 14% tested positive for *M. ovi*, the primary pathogen associated with pneumonia, which was similar to detection rates we see in Jackson and Dubois. After the first capture of the West Side sheep, we were curious to find out if they would have better lamb survival than their Dubois-counterparts. We captured 10 lambs in the West Side, 12 in Dubois, and 7 in Jackson. We observed the same lamb mortality patterns that we saw in 2019 and 2020 where early-life mortality occurs in the first couple weeks of life from predation, accidents, and maternal neglect—then survival stabilizes as the lambs get older. Survival in the Dubois segment of the Whiskey herd, however, continues to decrease later in the summer when lambs start to die of pneumonia. Surprisingly, we also observed this pattern in the West Side lambs. Four lambs have died of pneumonia in the West Side sheep and four in Dubois. Two lambs in Dubois and four lambs on the West Side remain alive. We are excited to continue to monitor the West Side sheep and identify how they differ – or are similar – to the Dubois segment of the Whiskey herd. Continued monitoring will help to identify potential causes of poor lamb recruitment in the herd. Survival in the Jackson herd was high this year with 5 lambs still alive, and we plan to fit them with adult-sized collars to continue monitoring them. This is an exciting



opportunity to gain insight into how lambs learn their migration routes and how they transition from being a juvenile to an adult. We captured 3 Jackson lambs in December 2020. Some of them had substantial stores of body fat! This was surprising to us because mule deer fawns rarely have body fat in December as they are still devoting most of their energetic resources into growing into an adult sized animal. We are excited to continue capturing these lambs to learn about the ecology of bighorn sheep in this unique age class. With three seasons of data from the Jackson and Dubois herds, we are excited to be back in our offices working on data analysis. There are some meaningful and novel patterns beginning to emerge from our data and we are excited to share some of the upcoming results with everyone who has been invested in the project. Moreover, multiple conversations are currently underway relative to what management actions might be implemented in a recovery effort for the Whiskey herd. Moreover,

through leveraging of our existing baseline data along with further long-term monitoring alongside any proposed management action, we are uniquely poised to not only examine the outcomes of management actions in Wyoming, but provide insight into management and conservation of bighorn sheep throughout the West. 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 the team will continue to work towards identifying the link between nutrition and disease in bighorn sheep to seek possible solutions to aid in keeping sheep on the mountain.

# GRANT IN AID UPDATES

## Devils Canyon Bighorn Sheep Movement Analysis Autumn 2021 Update By Sam Stephens, G&F Wildlife Biologist

**Haze** saturates the limestone veins of Porcupine Creek Canyon as a collared bighorn ascends the arid bluffs radiating in the July heat. She appears to be on nursery duty today, as 10 rambunctious lambs trail behind her, pausing occasionally and panting to catch their breath. A general lack of growing season precipitation has resulted in decreased shrub growth amongst stands of curl-leaf mountain mahogany (preferred native browse for Devil's Canyon Sheep). This ewe appears to be leading her juvenile compatriots to an irrigated meadow at the nearby Moss Ranch (familiar territory for these sheep). They commence their afternoon grazing schedule with another 100 or so (mostly ewes and lambs). They've sought out the only green spot for miles as irregular heat and wildfire smoke has gripped the Bighorns since June. Despite this dystopic sight, increased lamb production and an increase in mature rams indicate the Devil's Canyon Sheep are prospering. The summer of 2021 was a successful recruitment year for lambs and trophy rams in Devil's Canyon. Much of the anxiety that wildlife managers harbored over the past 4 years was vanquished after the summer classification flight uncovered a plethora of

mature rams, lambs, and an overall abundance of sheep. Standardized classification flights are conducted in July and are meant to attain two crucial datasets: classification or the composition of the herd and a trend count or the known-minimum population. This year lamb ratios exceeded 50 lambs per 100 ewes for the first time since 2015. Additionally an often missed male contingent of the herd was spotted which brought the ratio to 76 rams per 100 ewes. All together the number of sheep counted was 212, exceeding the trend objective of 175. The marked increase to the population trend would have been more of a surprise were it not for the contributions of the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation. A movement analysis conducted by the Wyoming Game and Fish, targeted 20 ewes and 10 rams fitted with GPS collars in the winter of 2019-20. Monitoring of collared individuals throughout the biological year including post-winter lamb count (April), neonatal lamb count (May), standardized summer flight (July), and a mid-winter flight (January) was used to estimate detectability, abundance, and vital rates (recruitment and survival) for the herd. Despite lower trends (n=144-158) counted from 2018 to 2020, data collected with intensive seasonal monitoring

indicated the population was likely much higher. The 2021 flight confirmed this hypothesis. Collars will continue to remotely transmit location and vital rate data into 2023. Managers plan to maintain a sample size of 30 individuals until that time. Collared rams give further insight into ram dispersal as it relates to population abundance, male to female ratio, and age of collared individuals. Surveying collared ewes allows managers to use changing ratios as an index for juvenile survival. Tracking these vital rates will continue to help managers understand what environmental variables impact survival through a lambs first year. The Devil's Canyon herd is a uniquely important population to the state of Wyoming. While the current pathogen profile for the herd allows us to use these sheep as a source population for transplants and augmentation. The isolated position on the landscape makes it distinctively vulnerable to peripheral threats of disease transmission. Maintaining a perceptive awareness of this herd's movement and population status is fundamental to our success in keeping sheep on the mountain.



## “Quiz Gets His Ram” continued from page 22.

The banquet could not have been more fun. Jaime and I participated in all the different events there, including winning several fantastic hunts in the auction. And getting to know most of the crew we would be hunting with was a great early start to the hunt. We left there with a feeling that not only would this be the hunt of a lifetime, but we had established friendships that would last a lifetime.

We continued to prepare for the hunt. I got in the best possible sheep shape I could, and Jaime became very proficient in riding horses. I got bored riding around in the ring and trails and quit the riding lessons. A decision that would come back to haunt me. I continued my dialogue with Jimmy to make sure we had all our gear in order.

August came and I left for my AK Dall hunt. It was hard on me physically, but I successfully harvested a Dall ram on day four of my hunt and returned home early. The guys at Lost Creek were also successful early on Bighorn rams with their 1st group of hunters and Jimmy asked if we could come out early. After some shifting of things at home, we were able to get out on September 3rd instead of the 5th and we prepared to head into the Shoshone Forest on September 4th. We were met at the Cody airport by Dean DiJenno, Jimmy and Cameron Schmidt, one of the Lost Creek guides. I'm sure both Jimmy and Cam thought we had enough gear for a month in the

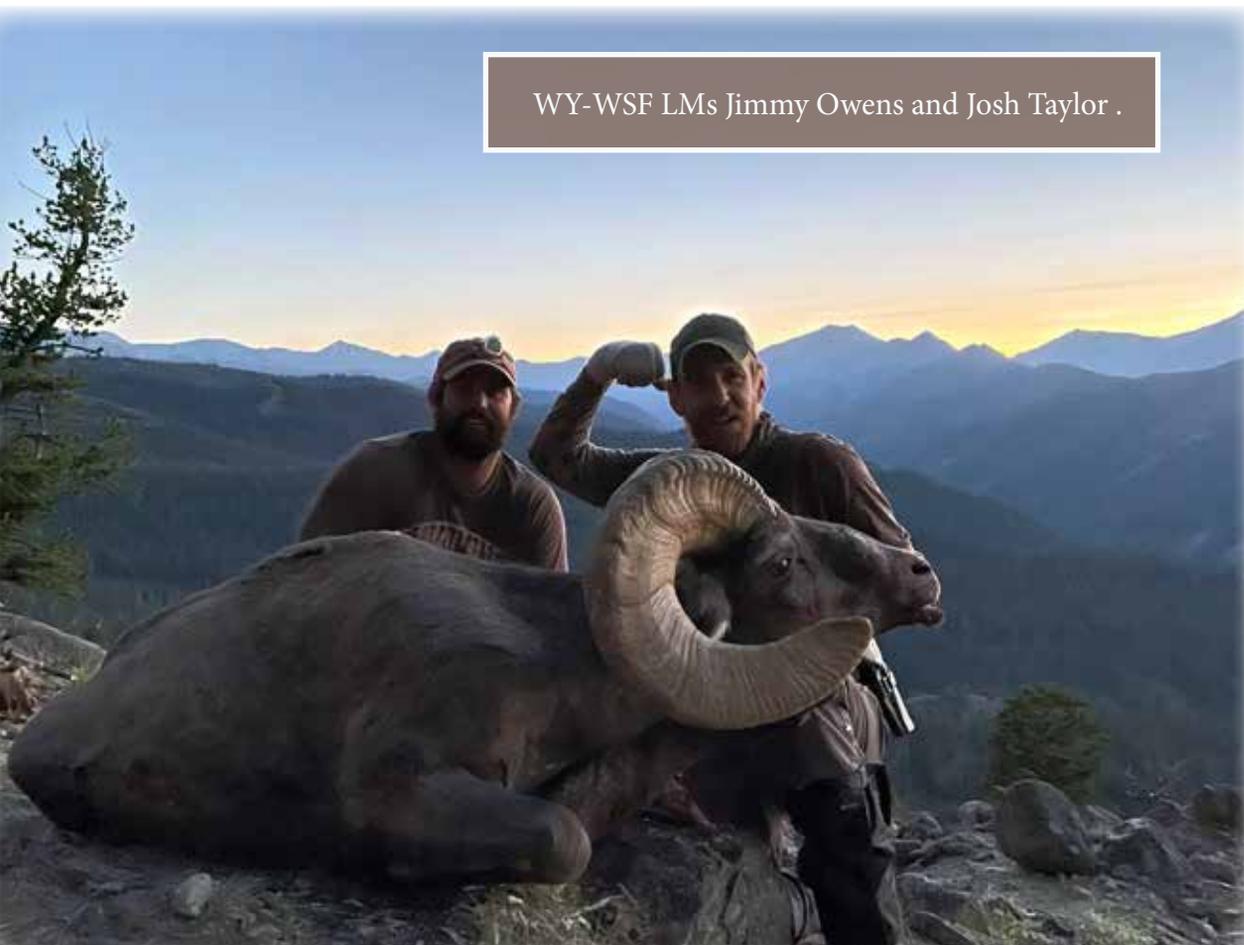
mountains, but they were very good about not saying anything about that. We drove to Jimmy's house and stowed our gear and then headed over to Josh Taylor's ranch where his wife Jenny was going to make us all some dinner. Josh and Jenny own WYO Backcountry Décor have gained national recognition for their European sheep mount replicas and horn décor. Josh gave us a tour of their studio. It's incredible how realistic the reproductions are. Jenny made a really good steak dinner spread and we all discussed the hunt while we ate. I was awful tired from both a day of travel, as well as the anxiousness of the hunt. We returned to Jimmy's house where we were met by Jozie and her sister, Jessie. They were finishing up their work week and ready for the weekend. I cannot describe how welcoming and hospitable everyone was from the time we landed in Cody until the time we left.

The morning of September 4th came early. It was hard for me to sleep not knowing exactly what was coming my way. Jozie made some breakfast while I re-sorted our gear to be loaded. Jimmy and Cam got the horses and mules saddled and loaded and we were ready to start our adventure. We met Josh about 20 miles down the road where he loaded his mules into Jimmy's trailer, and we headed toward the trail head in the Shoshone Forest. We were met at the trail head by Buck Porter, another one of the Lost creek guides. He rounded out the team that Jimmy had assembled to try and find a ram worthy of the Governor's tag. The horses and

mules were loaded with gear and Jaime and I were assigned our horses. Jaime was going to ride Preacher Man, and I was going to ride Remington. We started down the trail head and the real adventure began. Words cannot describe the beauty of the mountain trails, especially on horseback. Majestic is the first word that comes to mind. We rode for about 3 hours, and I think it was maybe 1 hour into the ride that Remington realized I had no idea what I was doing on a horse. That started a love-hate relationship that either wasted valuable time or gave the lost Creek team a good laugh. Jaime did amazing for her 1st time on horseback in mountain terrain. We arrived at base camp and the decision was made to drop our gear and head up quickly to get an afternoon hunt in. We rode for about 2 hours and reached the top of a bowl which was about 11000 ft. of elevation. Now I can tell you that sea level lungs notice that kind of thing, but fortunately the horses did most of the heavy lifting. At some point along the ride Remington decided to jump over a fallen tree instead of stepping over it like all the other horses. That jump sent me over the saddle horn onto his neck. I refused to fall off though so while all the guides tried to wrestle their phone out of their pocket to capture my horsemanship on film, I squirmed back into my saddle. This would not be the last time for such an event, but I survived all the episodes and never hit the ground once. Josh had hunted this large bowl in previous years, but this was the 1st time they had been to this area this year. We tied the horses

up and split up to do some glassing. Jaime and I ended up next to Jimmy while the rest of the group went to other vantage points. After about an hour, Josh came over and said, "I think we're in business". He guided Jimmy into a spot with his spotting scope and the 1st words out of Jimmy's mouth were, "we are going to kill that ram". I remember him saying that like it was 10 minutes ago. We all watched that ram and 7 other rams for about 20 minutes while he was bedded, and Jimmy determined the best path for a stalk. We headed out on the shortest route that gave us the advantage with the terrain and the wind. After

WY-WSF LMs Jimmy Owens and Josh Taylor .



traversing a small ridge and popping up over some rocks we were at 300 yards. I could tell he was a really good ram by the look in Jimmy's eyes and I must admit I was breathing pretty heavy. I made sure my turret was set for 300 yards, I got as settled as possible and when Jimmy was ready, I slowly squeezed the trigger. When I recovered from the recoil and looked through the scope, there was no ram. I looked at Jimmy and he said I had missed. I couldn't believe it. I successfully shoot at 300 yards from every possible position. And do it often. I was totally dejected. Jimmy was stellar about it, but I knew he was upset. He had done his job and I had failed at mine. As I sat there trying to grasp what had just happened, the rest of the team was watching the band of rams and trying to figure out where they were heading. They weren't really racing out of there, more like trotting which means my shot was high and the rams never knew the bullet went by. We gathered our composure, and the decision was made that Jimmy would track the rams by following their tracks and Josh, Jaime and I would head across a long ridge to where we all thought they might be headed. We got to a point at the end of the ridge where we had a good vantage point and set up to glass. After about 30 minutes Josh headed further out onto the point of the ridge to get a different angle. I stayed put and was glassing but mentally I was still trying to figure out how I missed. After about 20 minutes Josh came over the ridge and said he had found the band of rams. I grabbed my gun and proceeded to follow him. We worked our way over to the very edge of the ridge and the band of rams was bedded in the tree line at 410 yards. I got set up for a shot, and double checked that my turret was set for 400 yards. I had a great rest and felt good. Josh was super patient and said he was ready when I was. Once again, I got my breathing right and slowly squeezed the trigger. I missed again. Words could never describe the feelings I had at that point and time. My emotional state was at rock bottom. Once again, we thought that I had shot over the ram. The report of the gun had startled the rams into moving, but they had no idea a projectile had gone over their heads. I suspected at that time there was something wrong with my scope or gun. But either way, I was devastated. The people on the team that had reached a vantage point watched where the rams went until they were out of view, and we packed up to head down the mountain. That ride down the mountain to camp was one of the longest trips back to a camp in my life. I was second guessing everything except the ability of the Lost Creek team to put me on the ram of a lifetime. We got back to camp and set up our tents and gear. Dinner was made but I wasn't too hungry. The plan we made was to get up and wait for daylight for me to check my gun. Then head up and stake out vantage



points close to the last place we saw the band of rams. They had been seen last heading into the trees in a semi bowl just below the ridge I shot from. When we got up the next morning, Jimmy and I went to the creek bottom below camp to check my gun. It was 4 MOA high. That is 16" at 400 yards. Not knowing how that happened, we made the appropriate adjustments on the scope and with 5 shots, got it zeroed at 200 yards where it should have been. Now with renewed confidence, we would see if luck was on our side, and we could spot that band of rams a 3rd time. We rode up to the ridge that was above the trees where we last saw the rams and set up and waited. It was brutally hot. Jimmy and I ended up in a spot with very little tree cover and we baked in the sun for 4 hours. At about 5:30, Buck Porter spotted the rams deep in the trees, and we felt like we had a good idea of where they might go and where we could intercept them. We rode up to the top of a different ridge and Jimmy, Cam, Jaime, and I started out on foot to position ourselves to intercept the band of rams. The terrain was very steep, and we had to traverse several sheer rock faces, but were able to get on to a small ridge that separated two small bowls. From there we waited. Our thought was that the rams would cut across the top of the ridge we were on and present a shot opportunity in the left bowl above the tree line. We waited and waited. We began to worry that they had gone over the top of the ridge on the right. After about 20 minutes which felt like an hour, Jimmy said "there he is" and pointed straight up the small ridge we were sitting on. He was standing up there like he was surveying his domain. Not knowing how long he would stay

there; I threw the gun up freehand and put the crosshairs on his chest. There was no time to get overly excited, the shot was all muscle memory from years of practicing. This time, I didn't miss. He didn't take one more step. My ears were still in shock from the report of my gun when I heard Jimmy yell. It was an amazing moment that summarized extreme luck, months of effort and planning, much more luck, and hunting with an amazing team of guides. I will remember the picture in my mind of that ram standing on top of that ridge forever.

When we got back to Cody and had my ram plugged by G&F biologist, Tony Mong, we determined that he was a 10 year old Bighorn that will score around 184! I left him at another of WY-WSP's huge supporters, Dewey Wildlife Studios for the taxidermy work.

Jaime and I want all of the Wyoming and Eastern chapter members to know how grateful we are that this raffle was available to buy into. We are also particularly happy that Wyoming Governor Mark Gordon grants these opportunities to hunt through the Wyoming Big Game License Coalition programs. We also want to tell Cody biologist, Tony Mong, and the Wyoming Game & Fish department "Thank You" for their never ending hard work in putting and keeping Bighorn Sheep on Wyoming's mountains.

Finally, and certainly not least, we want to thank Jimmy, Jozie, Josh, Jennie and the entire Lost Creek Outfitter crew for taking such great care of us and for finding the trophy of a lifetime for me.

# “THE RON BALL MEMORIAL AWARD”

## THE WYOMING WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION’S HIGHEST HONOR



By Kevin Hurley, LM #20  
Vice President of Conservation  
and Operations  
Wild Sheep Foundation  
Bozeman, MT

I was fortunate enough to be the first recipient of this special recognition in 2003, and this award holds a special spot on my wall. As you can see, over the past 17 years, a virtual “Who’s Who” of dedicated individuals have been recognized by the Wyoming Chapter for their contributions to Wyoming’s bighorn sheep.

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

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

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

Ron Ball was a rancher and outfitter from the Big Piney area who served as either President or Vice-President of Wyoming FNAWS (at that time) for 11 of our first 14 years of existence. Ron was a big man, whose presence and contributions were also huge. Ron and his family were dedicated volunteers who organized many early Chapter events, meetings, and live/silent auctions. Wording on the Ron Ball Award speaks highly of the type of individual Ron was, and what he did for wild sheep in Wyoming. This award reads:

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

- 2003 Kevin Hurley
- 2004 Jim Collins
- 2005 Gov. Dave Freudenthal
- 2006 Melanie Woolever
- 2007 Steve Kilpatrick
- 2008 Terry Cleveland
- 2009 Gary Butler
- 2010 Fritz Meyer
- 2011 Cole Benton
- 2012 Dennis Claman
- 2013 Bob Sundeen
- 2014 Tom Easterly (D)
- 2015 Doug McWhirter
- 2016 Lynn Stewart
- 2017 Freddie Goetz
- 2018 Ryan Amundson
- 2019 Joni Miller
- 2020 Dean DiJenno
- 2021 Jerry Galles



**2020 Ron Ball Award Winner  
RHS Life Member #371  
Dean DiJenno**



**2021 Ron Ball Award Winner  
RHS Life Member #223  
Jerry Galles**



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- MOOSE
- ANTELOPE



# GRANT IN AID UPDATES

WY-WSF joins in supporting the Fraternity of the Desert Bighorn Nevada Chapter  
by RHS Life Member # 195, John Harris

**Our** Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation Executive Director, Katie Cheesbrough and I recently attended the WSF Chapter and Affiliates meeting in Lewiston, ID in June.

It was a great event and we had a chance to reunite with a number of other chapter officers and volunteers. Katie was able to put faces to names which will make it easier

for her to interact and work with the other chapters in the future.

While at the meeting an emergency request to assist the Fraternity of the Desert Bighorn (FDB) Nevada chapter with funds to supply water to wildlife guzzlers in very remote areas due to severe drought conditions was presented to the chapters and affiliates.

This project will not only benefit Wild Sheep but other wildlife as well as Nevada struggles with extreme drought conditions.

The water has to be delivered by helicopters so getting water to wild sheep in this extremely rugged and remote country is very expensive.

Pledges from other chapters and affiliates quickly raised \$82,000.

Our chapter policy is

not to commit any funding without board approval so we talked to the Nevada representative and told him we would bring their request to our board.

When we returned back to Wyoming we immediately received approval to commit \$5000 to the water emergency.

In addition, other chapters and individual WSF members have also donated and the total now stands at \$182,000.

A membership unselfishly dedicated to the welfare and conservation of Desert Bighorn and Nevada's wildlife, the Fraternity of the Desert Bighorn maintains 115 water development projects that sustain wild sheep and desert wildlife. Headquartered in Las Vegas, the Fraternity is a 100 percent volunteer organization completely committed to the comeback of the desert's wild sheep.

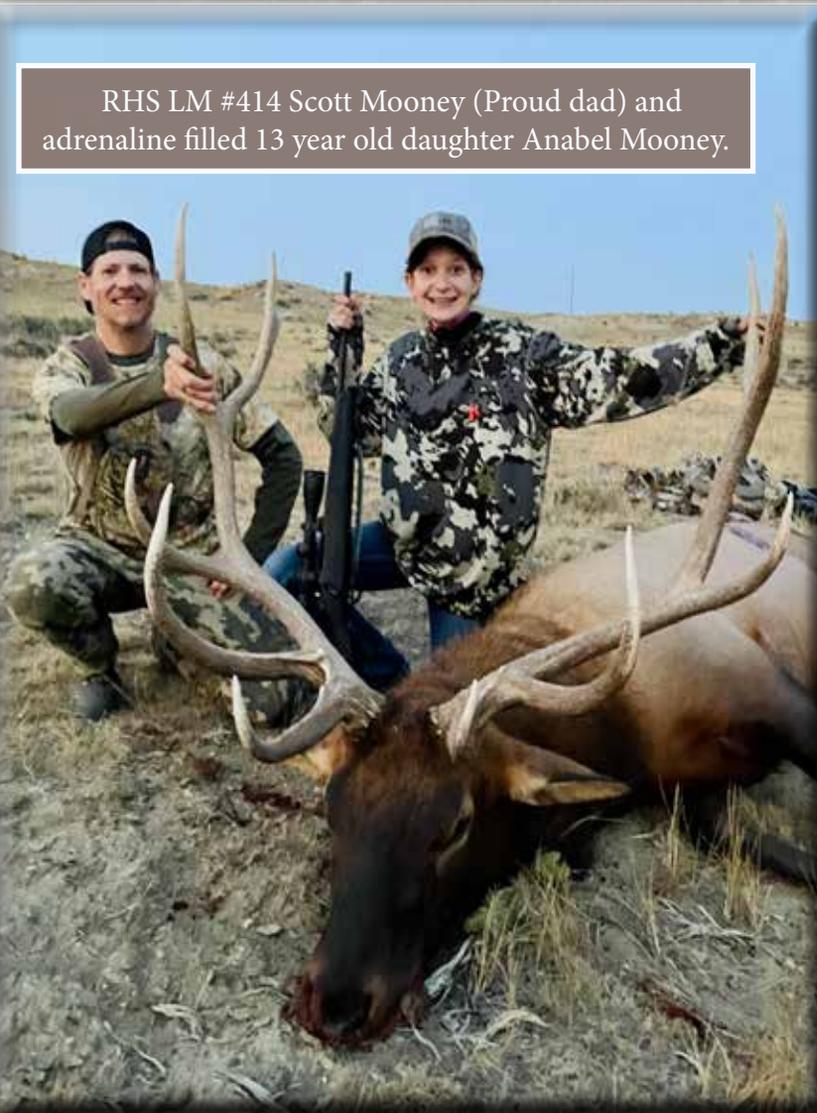
**Gray Thornton the WSF CEO said it best, "With all the negative banter these days about hunters and hunting by self-proclaimed and media-appointed conservation groups, I say get out your checkbook if you want to do something real for wildlife."**



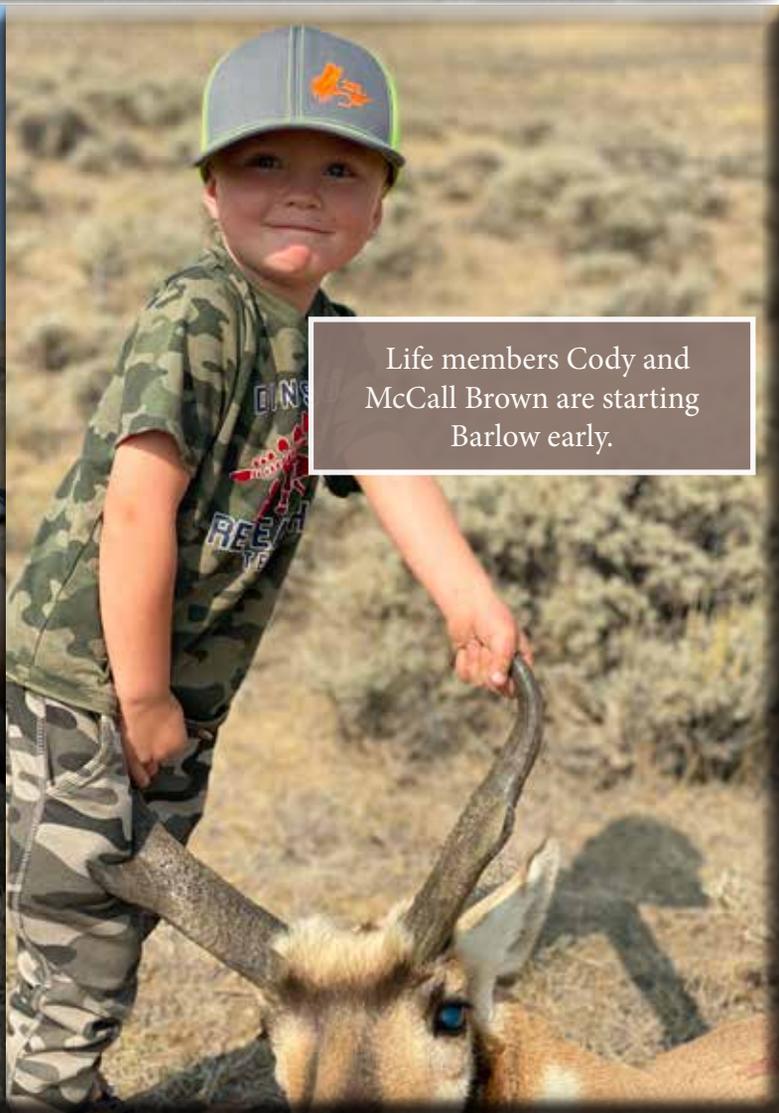
Can you smell the smoke? Thanks to LMs  
Josh Taylor and Jimmy Owens for this  
beautiful photo.

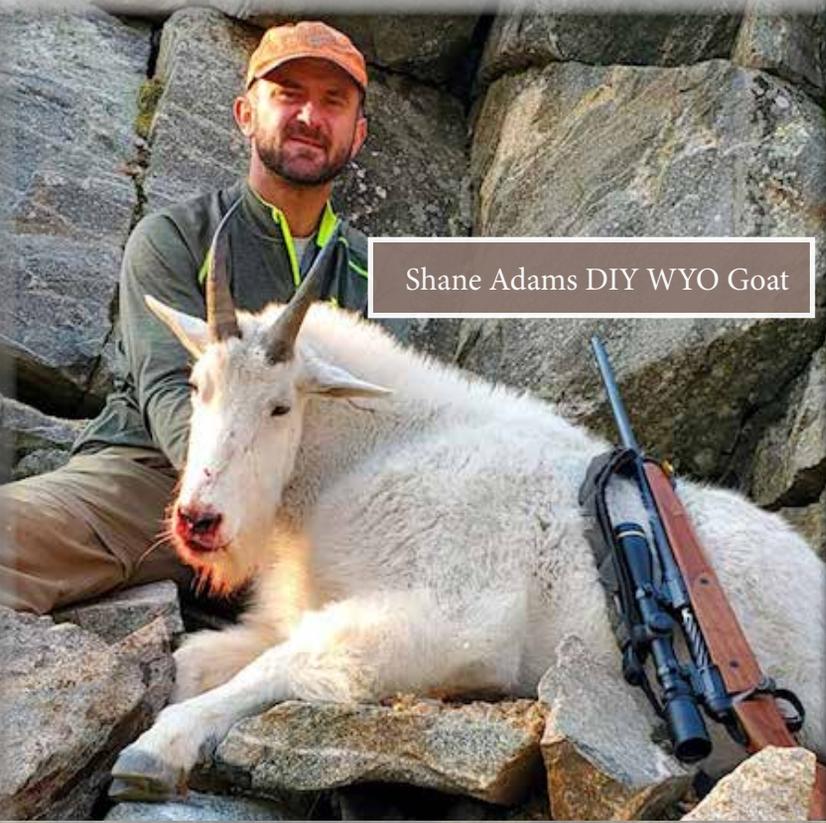


RHS LM #414 Scott Mooney (Proud dad) and  
adrenaline filled 13 year old daughter Anabel Mooney.

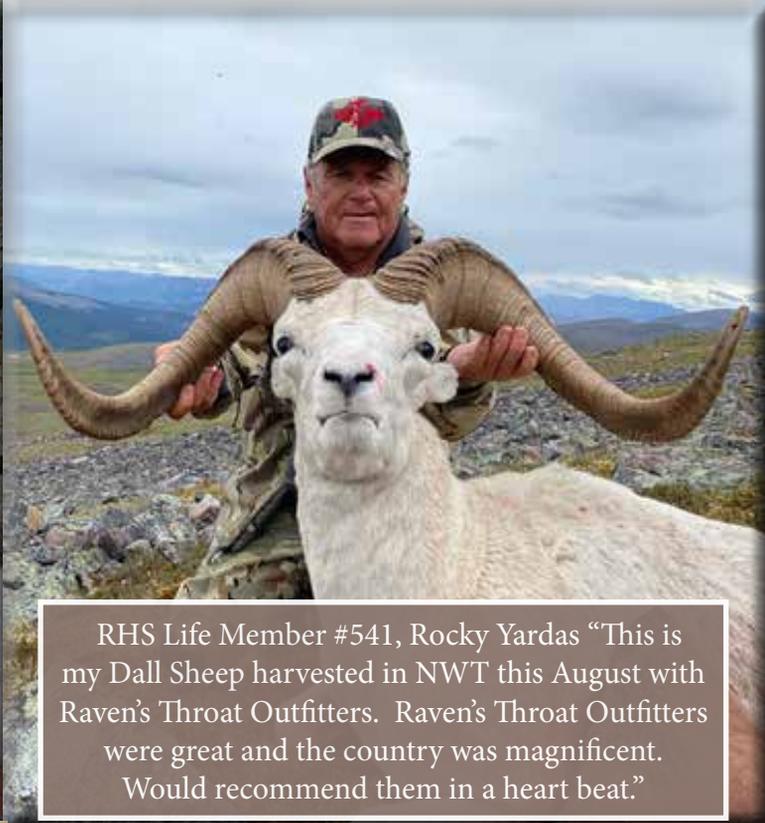


Life members Cody and  
McCall Brown are starting  
Barlow early.





Shane Adams DIY WYO Goat



RHS Life Member #541, Rocky Yardas "This is my Dall Sheep harvested in NWT this August with Raven's Throat Outfitters. Raven's Throat Outfitters were great and the country was magnificent. Would recommend them in a heart beat."



LMs Jax and Jett Taylor with their Spring turkeys!



Tosi Dobric is getting outdoors



RHS Life Member #543, Miles Fortner



Possibly a new state record Mountain goat taken by Justin Mahalik hunting with Lost Creek Outfitters.

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](mailto:info@www.wyomingwildsheep.org).



Dave Bumann, Cooper and Bruce Perryman with Bruce's UT Ram.



LM#173, Cody Brown



RHS LM#182, Dan Hinz attended the BC Sturgeon Fishing Derby.

# Member's Gallery

RHS LM#473, Greg Pope  
Nevada Desert Sheep

RHS LM#393, Chance Butler  
with his first archery elk.



RHS LM #451, Karen Lozier with her beautiful HA-2 ram.  
On the left is RHS LM #439, Ray Lozier and on the right,  
LM#515, Josh Martoglio, Shoshone Lodge Outfitters.



## BLAST FROM THE PAST

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



LM #523, McCall Brown with  
a beautiful whitetail.



# 38th Annual Convention Will Be In Lander, WY On June 3&4, 2022

**Come** join us at the Lander Community Center in Lander for our 38th Annual Convention on June 3rd & 4th, 2022. All functions will be held at this one location. The Lander Community & Convention Center features a large multipurpose space that is 9,387 square feet, three break out rooms which are approximately 500 square feet, reception/lobby/gallery which is 1,826 square feet, bar area which is 769 square feet and two outdoor patios.

In our 2021 post event survey we found a large number of responses asking us to find a new venue. Your board of directors constructed a matrix of important considerations and scored many facilities across Wyoming before narrowing the prospects to Cheyenne, Gillette and Lander. Eventually the board voted to hold our 2022 event in Lander and the 2023 event in Cheyenne.

It is our hope that moving the event around will result in more excitement and perhaps a few new members.

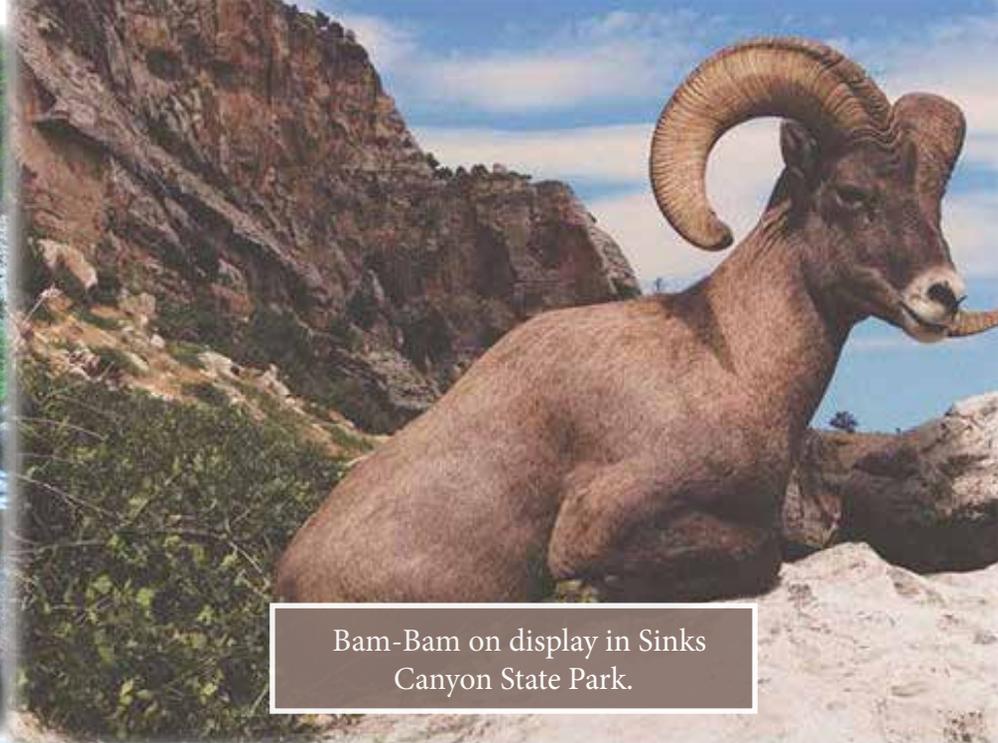
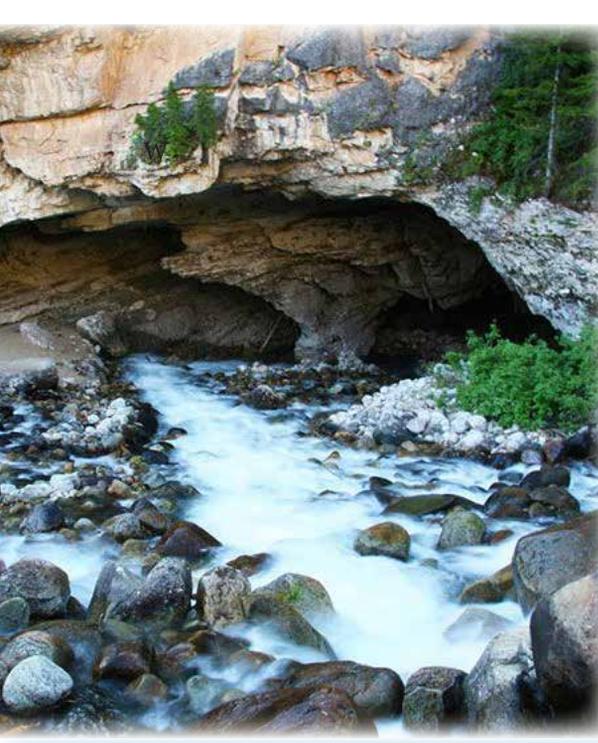
Please place the date on your calendar and watch the Spring RamPage for registration details.

June 28th, 2012, was a somber day in the history of Lander, Wyoming, as we all solemnly watched 100 years of hunts, weddings, anniversaries, reunions, parties, fundraisers, and funerals burn into rubble and disappear into a large thick black column of smoke.

The City of Lander could have easily given in. But we didn't. We rolled up our sleeves and began working on a new community center, just like the generations before us. The City immediately got to work - hiring architects, appointing a citizens design committee, and developing a funding plan. The result was a community that came together to design

and construct a beautiful new 19,000 square foot community and convention center. In addition to operating as a community center, our new facility has been designed to function dually as a convention center. Lander is in a position well suited for this purpose being centrally located with the State of Wyoming. Lander has become a destination community as a result of unlimited wilderness, recreational opportunities, younger-aged population and charming Main Street and our local casinos. We will always carry the memories from the former community center with us, but, friends, today is the time we begin making new memories together.





Bam-Bam on display in Sinks Canyon State Park.



# Wyoming Wild Sheep Winter Meeting to be held in Laramie on Dec 3&4, 2021!

## Friday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>

2:00-5:00 PM: Board Meeting at the BPOE Elks Club located at 103 South 2<sup>nd</sup> Street.

6:00-9:00 PM: No host cash bar and light snacks at the BPOE Elks Club. Executive Director Katie Cheesbrough will update our grant in aid projects plus a slideshow of 2021 events and rams harvested.

## Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup>

8:00-12:00 PM - Meet at the Hilton Garden Inn located at 2229 Grand Avenue in Laramie.

We will travel to and tour the WGFD Sybille Canyon Research Center and look for Bighorn sheep on the way.

12:00-1:00 PM- Sandwiches, chips, cookies, and water/soft drinks will be provided for lunch which will be in the Sybille Conference room.

1:00-2:00 PM- Wyoming Department of Transportation and Wyoming Game & Fish personnel will lead discussions on HWY 34 bighorn sheep mortalities, options for improving public safety and reducing bighorn sheep mortalities, opportunities for partnerships and funding projects such as signage.

2:00-3:00 PM - Bighorn Sheep Viewing and return to the Hilton Garden Inn by 3:30PM.

4:00-5:00 PM - Membership Meeting at the Hilton Garden Inn.

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

6:30 PM - BBQ Buffet featuring Pulled Pork and Braised Beef Brisket. Includes mashed potatoes and gravy, macaroni and cheese, corn on the cob, biscuits, salad, and desert.

Formal Presentations During/After Dinner include:

Game & Fish Director Brian Nesvik. Game & Fish Biologists Lee Knox and Ryan Amundson will report on the Douglas Herd.

The all-inclusive cost for the weekend is \$50 per person and children 18 and under are free. Rooms may be reserved by calling the Hilton Garden Inn at (307) 745-5500. Ask for the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation rate of \$102. Special rate is good through November 11.

Register on line at: [www. Wyomingwildsheep.org/store.asp](http://www.Wyomingwildsheep.org/store.asp) by **Nov 28<sup>th</sup>**, send a check to WY-WSF at P.O. Box 666 in Cody, WY 82414 or contact Dean DiJenno at (307) 213-0998.



Join us for some fun and information sharing regarding our work of "Putting and Keeping Kids and Wild Sheep on the Mountain".



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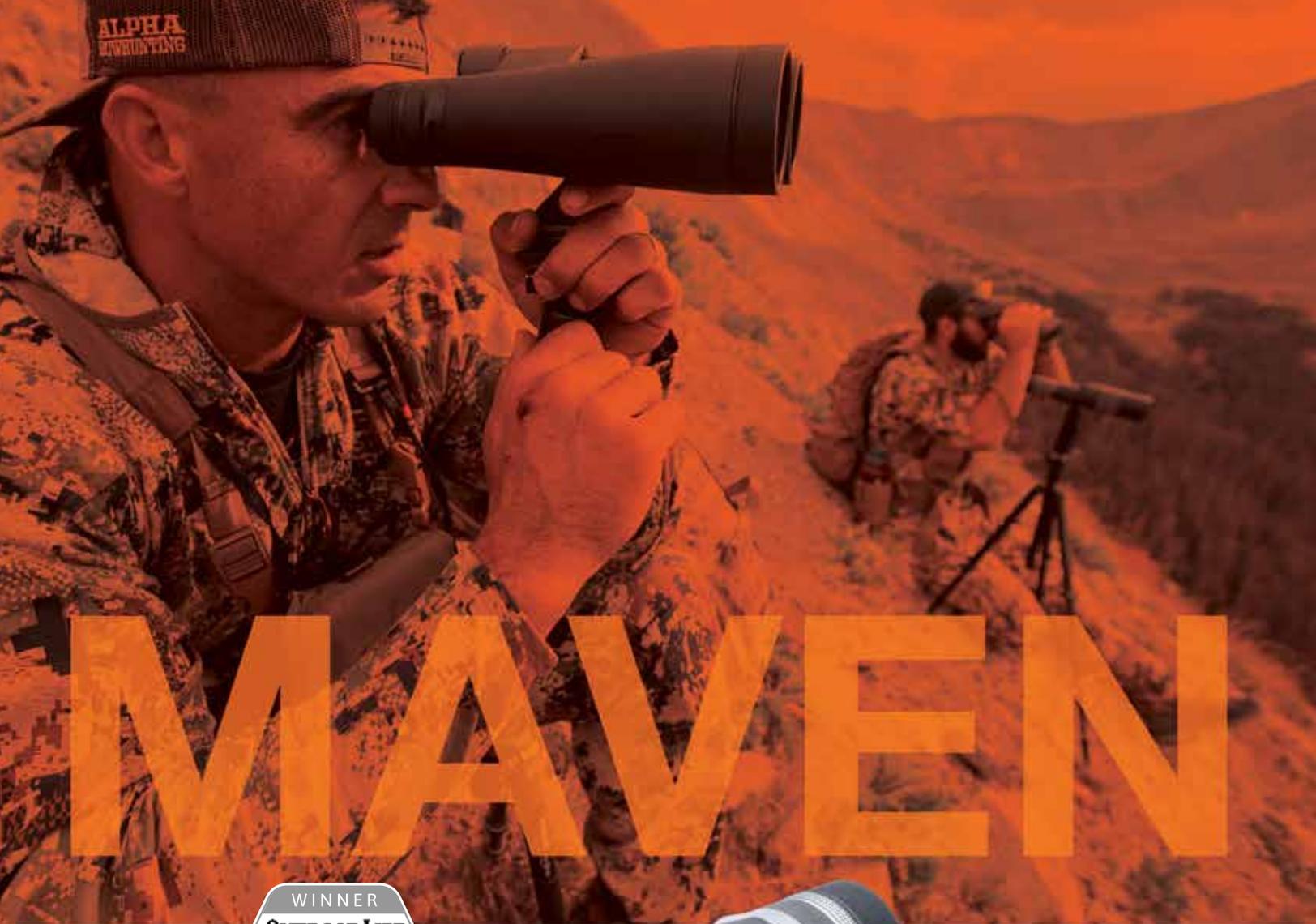


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We at Grizzly Outfitters, LLC pride ourselves in having some of the best guides. Pepper, Tyler, Pat, Jess, Colby, Adrian, Ed, and Brad have all been involved in our operation for many years. They know and understand the game patterns and the terrain.

Our success rate runs close to 100% 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.





Ross German  
PHOTOGRAPHY

Join us in Laramie on Dec 3 & 4, 2021  
for our winter meeting. Info on page 63