

The **RAMPAGE**

Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation
Spring 2018



“Broken Horn”
Photo by
Ross Gorman





Membership Renewal

Your renewal date is listed on the poly bag's mailing label right below your name. If your membership is expired, or will expire before the next issue, renew today at:
<https://www.wyomingwildsheep.org/membership.asp>.

4th Transplant Completed in the Ferris

A total of 89 Wild Sheep have been transplanted. We thank the BLM and our partners for the habitat improvements, guzzlers and prescribed burns. Without them we would not have the capacity to support so many wild sheep. Our herd objective is 300 and the population is currently 225. Lamb recruitment in 2016 & 2017 was 7 lambs/10 ewes – VERY HIGH – all doing quite well! We may be able to change objective upward if more habitat improvements are implemented.

The Eastern Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation has JUST adopted the Devil's Canyon – Ferris Mtn. as their "chapter project" and will be sending enabling funding to support our work.

Watch for new trail camera photos on our web page once Spring reaches the area.



Join us for our 35th Annual Convention in Casper WY on June 1 & 2, 2018. Registration information can be found inside.

<http://www.WyomingWildSheep.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/Wyoming-Wild-Sheep-Foundation-166930633369943/>

 **Wyoming**
Wild Sheep Foundation

ONLY 400 TICKETS!

GUN

**\$50/Ticket
5 for \$200**

RAFFLE

WINNERS CHOICE



**Kimber Subalpine
.280 Ackley Improved Rifle**



Kimber Montana .300 WSM Rifle



**Franchi Over & Under
12 Gauge Shotgun**



Bergara HMR .308 Rifle



**Ruger American
All-Weather 22-250 Rifle**



**Ruger American .270 Rifle
w/ Vortex Crossfire II Riflescope**



**Smith & Wesson
M&P .223 Rifle**



**Ruger
Mark IV Hunter Pistol**



**Sig Sauer
P320x Pistol**



**Kimber
Ultra Carry II 9mm Pistol**



**Ruger
SR22 .22 Pistol**

**DRAWING WILL BE HELD
JUNE 2, 2018 AT THE
WYOMING WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION
ANNUAL CONVENTION IN
CASPER, WYOMING.
WINNERS NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN.**

**To order tickets online please go to www.wyomingwildsheep.org.
Must be over 21 and pass FFL Background Check. Shipping is the winners responsibility.
Phone: 307-213-0998 / email: info@wyomingwildsheep.org / WY-WSF, P.O. Box 666, Cody, Wyoming 82414**

Spring 2018

Board of Directors:

Kurt Eisenach-President
Zachary McDermott-VP
Joni Miller-Treasurer
Scott Butler-Secretary
Warren Youmans
Adam Johnson
Meade Dominick
Dan Hinz
Jerry Galles
Greg Pope
Mike Porter
James Rinehart
John W. Harris
Steve Kilpatrick-Executive Director

Contact us at:

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

Wyoming WSF Board & Membership Meetings

Wyoming WSF holds its winter board membership meeting on the first Saturday of December and summer convention/ board/membership meeting the first Saturday in June. Details and locations are listed in the Calendar of Events, and on line at: www.wyomingwildsheep.org. Funding requests for consideration at the winter board meeting are due no later than Nov. 1. Funding requests for consideration at the summer board meeting are due no later than May 1. The Grant-In-Aid request form is available on the Wyoming WSF website: www.wyomingwildsheep.org.
Contact address:
Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation
P.O. Box 666
Cody, WY 82414
E-mail: info@wyomingwildsheep.org
wyomingwildsheep.org

- 10 Rusty & Rosemary Gooch
Their Arizona Land Donation benefits the Conservation Fund
- 33 "Zack Deberard: 2017 Wyo Super Tag Hunting"
Zack's Year for a Lifetime, Moose, Sheep, Mtn. Goat
- 41 "Bitter-Sweet" by C.Schroeder & S. Kilpatrick
It was the best of times but also the worst of times.
- 49 "I Spy" by Kristin Maestri
Kristin reminisces about hunts shes been on and hunts to come.
- 51 "16 Hour Ride" by Zach McDermott
Zach gets his Dall's Sheep and a lesson in conservation.



- 53 "I Got The Shot" by Sara Harris and Steve Kilpatrick
- 57 "Memories of a Sheep Hunter" by Cari Goss
Cari finishes her Grand Slam with husband, Leo by her side.

Address Changes

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

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

Advertising Rates

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

Donations netting WY-WSF >\$500 entitle donor to a free 1/4-page ad in the next 2 issues of The Rampage. Ads must be received in camera ready format by 09/25 & 3/5!!

2018-2019 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 1-2, 2018
Annual Convention
Casper, WY

June 21-23, 2018
WSF Chapter & Affiliates Summit
Jackson, WY

August 10, 2018
Wyoming Big Horn Sheep Summit
Burgess Junction, WY

Nov 30-Dec 1, 2018
Winter Meeting
TBD

February 7-9, 2019
WSF Banquet/Convention
Reno, NV

Wyoming WSF would like to thank, and recognize, Life Members who have signed up since the Fall 2017 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/life-members.asp>

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



522	Bill Obeid
523	McCall Brown
524	Scott Smith
525	Alan Hays
526	William Mai
527	Tim O'Leary
528	Celeste Schroeder
529	Gail Morlock
530	Jeremy Boggs
531	Christopher Erickson
532	Patrick Rollison

Blast from the Past - Life Member #91 Rusty Gooch setting out into the Wind River Range on his first sheep hunt in 1968.



Wyoming

Wild Sheep Foundation



2018

**WYOMING GAME AND FISH
COMMISSIONER'S LICENSE RAFFLE**

ONLY 500 TICKETS!

**\$50 per ticket
3 for \$100**



LICENSE DONATED BY COMMISSIONER MIKE SCHMID

A Commissioner's license is good for Elk, Deer, or Pronghorn and is independent of the regular Wyoming Game and Fish Department license draw. The winner is responsible for all applicable license fees. The Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation Board of Directors and members are eligible to participate in all fund-raising activities.

The license drawing will be held June 2nd, 2018, at the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation Convention to be held at the Ramkota Hotel in Casper, Wyoming. The winner need not be present to win.
To order tickets online please go to www.wyomingwildsheep.org.



For more information about Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation
307-213-0998 / email: info@wyomingwildsheep.org
WY-WSF, P.O. Box 666, Cody, Wyoming 82414



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

BY STEVE KILPATRICK

A Short History of Wyoming's and the Surrounding Area's Bighorns

History, especially that of wildlife accounts, has always fascinated me. When I read of historical sightings, I subconsciously develop a mental "picture". Vast herds of big brown woolly bison grazing across gently rolling green hills overshadowed by vibrant blue skies with white puffy clouds. And, then those historic imaginary images of bighorns with white rumps silhouetted on precipitous cliff bands, rugged crags and the ewes/lamb groups napping and sprawled on brilliant green alpine tundras. The mind races - images flash, breezes are felt, smells are smelt. The heart is warmed.

So, sit back, kick your feet up, grab you favorite drink and just try to imagine" what these early explorers saw when they took the following notes. Some of your images will be inspiring. Others won't.

1540 - Coronado's Spanish explorers saw and made the first recording of bighorns on the south rim of the Grand Canyon.

1804 - On the evening of October 2, a French trapper named Valle, told Lewis and Clark about "a species of small animalwhich resembled a small elk with circular horns" would be seen at the head of the Cheyenne River in the Black Hills.

1804 - December 22 - Mandan Indians traded Lewis and Clark two horns of the animal called by the French 'belier des Montagnes Rocheuses' or the

Rocky Mountain sheep, known to the Mandans as 'ahsahta'.

1805 - April 26 -One of Lewis and Clark's scouts journeyed about 8 miles above the junction of the Yellowstone and Missouri Rivers where he saw "several of the bighorn animalsbut they were too shy to be obtained".

1806 - Captain Clark, on his return trip down the Yellowstone, saw many bighorns and took several from his boat. When he came to the mouth of the Bighorn River, he so named it for its great abundance of mountain sheep within what is now the northern part of Wyoming.

1812 - November 12 - Stuart and 6 Astorians the saw "innumerable" flocks of bighorns 1 mile downstream from the mouth of Poison Spider Cr (near Casper). On November 12, they took 28 sheep and mule deer near the mouth of Spider Creek.

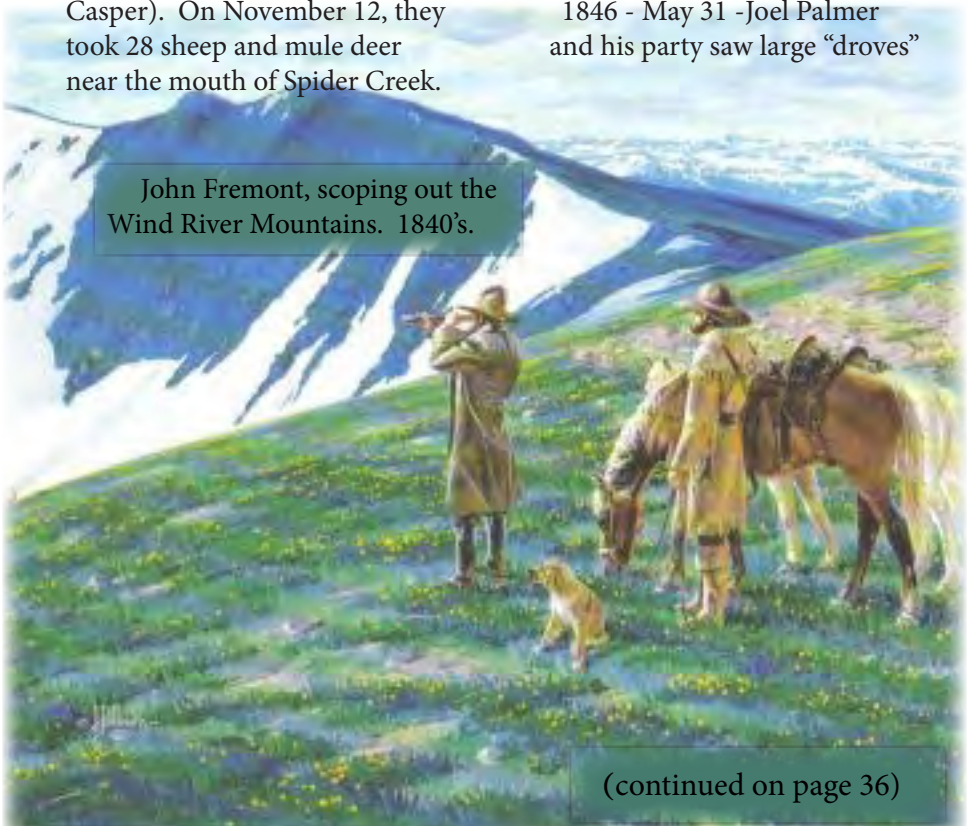
1834 - Coutant writing on the history of Ft Laramie, notes that hunters supplied the builders with buffalo, elk, deer and mountain sheep. He states game around Ft Laramie was abundant, including mountain sheep.

1835 - July 11 - Russell and group of trappers in the vicinity of Togwotee Pass observed "thousands" of mountain sheep scattered up and down among the cliffs.

1842 - July 30 - Fremont mentions seeing numerous herds of mountain sheep on the North Platte River 25 miles SW of Casper (a few miles above the mouth of the Sweetwater).

1842 - August 16 - Fremont saw "large flocks" of mountain sheep at about 10,000 ft while summiting Fremont Peak.

1846 - May 31 -Joel Palmer and his party saw large "droves"

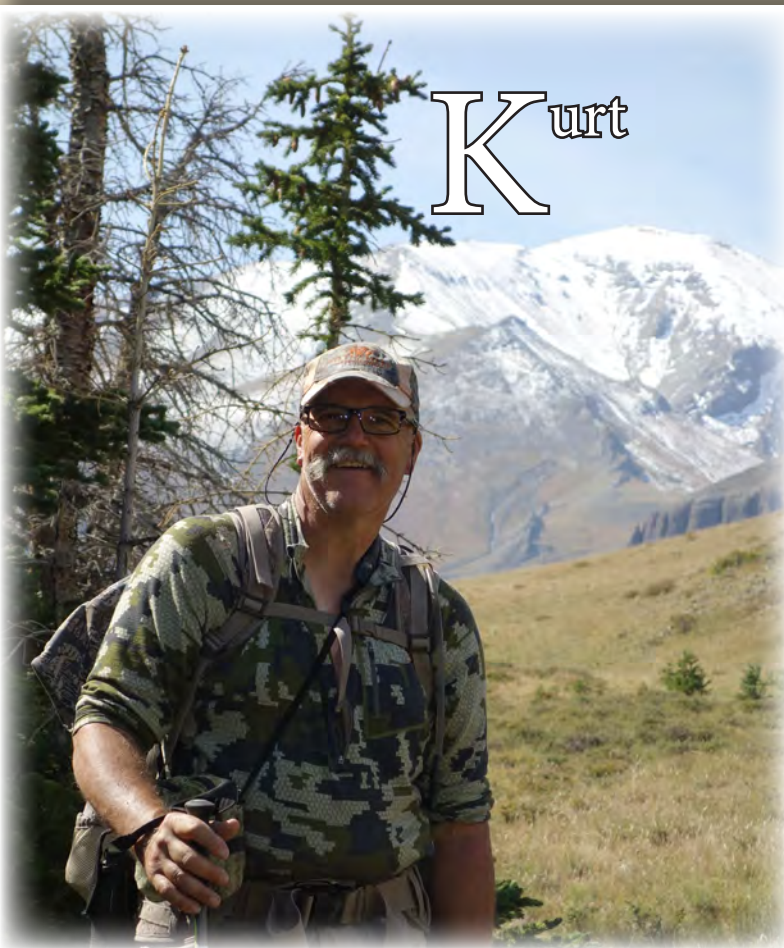


John Fremont, scoping out the Wind River Mountains. 1840's.

(continued on page 36)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY KURT EISENACH



It's hard to believe that spring is hopefully just a few weeks away. The snow continues to fall, and the temps are not very spring like. The wildlife in the state is coping in their own unique way's. Meanwhile your board has been busy taking care of business. The winter meeting in Jackson was well attended and a fun event. Check out the web site for info on the GIA'S we approved and pictures of the event. Several of us attended the Sheep Show in Reno and kicked off our 2018 fundraising there. Our booth was busy and our advertising at the show is paying off. Sales of the Dall's sheep hunt and commissioner's license tickets are steady and coming in from all over the country. Please encourage

your friends and hunting buddies to join the effort and purchase several of these. If you spend some time on line posting to outdoor related web sites, please mention our raffles and where others might participate. Include a link to our website for them to check us out. The sheep hunt raffle funds are directed at our Conservation fund and when they sell out we will see that fund pushed well over \$200,00. That brings me to the incredible donation from Rusty and

Rosemary Gooch of a parcel of land in Patagonia AZ. The sale of this parcel will help push the fund to well over our stated 10-year goal of \$250,000 in just 3 years. Anyone looking for a winter home location to escape the subzero WY winters?

We are also honored to share in the induction of another of our life members into the WY Outdoor hall of fame. On March 15 Gary Butler will be so honored. It will be an honor to be on hand to celebrate this with him and his family. Join us in Cody for this event and celebration. When you see these two incredibly generous members in Casper this June give them a hardy and well-deserved thank you.

Plans for this summer's banquet in Casper are well underway. We are

looking at a great lineup of hunts and trips to auction. Moose, Mt. goat, Deer, brown bear and pheasant hunts along with trips to Mexico and the Bahama's are on the list. Again, we will have a governor's WY sheep license and a commissioner's license to auction. The kids are going to have opportunities to enjoy challenging games and items directed at them. Please make this a family event and bring the kids. The silent and general raffles will again be interesting and extensive. Our partnership with Hunting with Hero's is continuing with more exciting partnerships for wounded veterans.

The year has been busy with many projects completed and new ones started. Transplants, guzzlers and habit improvements lead the list. All of this takes time and effort from your board and executive director. Several board members are ending their terms and choosing to open those positions to new volunteers with fresh ideas and energy. Please look at your free time and energy, then step up and join us. The work that this all volunteer board accomplishes is amazing to be a part of. All of us were the new guy at one time so don't let this hold you back.

JOIN US

If being a board member is not possible for you consider volunteering to help at the banquet. Helping hands are always appreciated. Please consider underwriting and auction item, donating to support our life member breakfast or buying a full curl table.

I look forward to 2018 and a great event in Casper. See you there, but don't wait too long tickets will sell out for this event so get yours early.

Ross German
PHOTOGRAPHY .COM

2017 FULL CURL TABLE

PURCHASERS

Businesses and individuals listed on the opposite page (if logos were available) made significant investments for Wyoming's bighorn sheep by purchasing a "full curl" table for 8 attendees at our June 3, 2017 banquet in Casper.

We thank them for their support, and invite others who might be interested in a full curl table for our 2018 fundraising banquet to please contact President Kurt Eisenach, Executive Director Steve Kilpatrick, or any WY-WSF board member. We appreciate your outstanding support, and look forward to another great banquet/fund raiser in 2018!



2017 Rams

Wind River Backcountry Outfitters, LLC

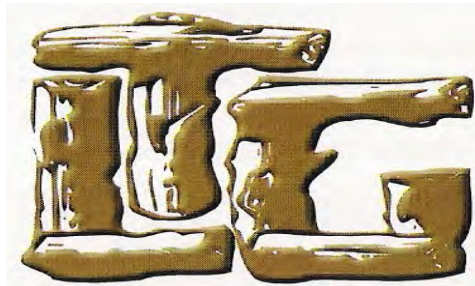
License # BG-304

Dubois, WY





Luke
Ellifritz



Brian Scott/Gamroth Family



Buckingham
Montgomery



BIG HORN HUNTING IS OUR PASSION



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

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



LOST CREEK^{LLC}

OUTFITTERS

JAMES (JIMMY) OWENS

Licensed / Insured Outfitter Lic. #BG281
27 Jim Mtn. Dr., Cody, WY 82414 • (307) 527-6251
lostcreekoutfitters307@gmail.com

www.lostcreekoutfitters.com



Thank You Rusty & Rosemary Gooch! Your Arizona Land Donation will directly benefit Wyoming's Wild Sheep for decades to come through our WY-WSF Conservation Fund.

Rusty says:

"Some of the best times of my life have been spent sitting with a good pair of binoculars and glassing a high cirque for Big Horn Sheep. It doesn't get much better than that in the Wind River Range - - - my back yard!

"My wife and I are WWSF life members. Donating land to WWSF is our way of being good stewards of the land and of wild sheep, in addition to saying "thank you for great times and memories."

Wow!

**Passionate
and
charitable!**

Those are two of the many amazing qualities that make up the fabric within Rusty and Rosemary Gooch. They are certainly visionary when it comes to investing in the future of "putting and keeping kids and sheep on the mountain". We are more than humbled by their



gracious real estate gift to the WY-WSF Conservation Fund. Their supplement to the Conservation Fund corpus will generate additional interest revenue, which will assist in funding dozens of projects in perpetuity. They invested in the future and generations of kids and sheep to come thank them. Moreover, they have inspired us to explore innovative ways to "give back". We thank you, Rusty and Rosemary!!

112 Red Mountain Court, Patagonia, AZ

Located in scenic Patagonia, Arizona, a four season mountain area of southeast Arizona. Home to Coues Deer, Javelina, Quail and Dove, the area is a sportsman's paradise in the late fall and early winter months. Public lands are numerous and very close to this parcel. The four acre parcel is in a gated community of site built homes called "The Mesa". Water, power and septic in place. The Mesa is always in demand because of its unique combination of rural privacy & desirable proximity to historic Patagonia with all its charms & conveniences~ an easy walk down the hill! Known for its serene, grassy & wooded hillside habitat in the foothills of Red Mountain, rich wildlife & bird populations & good neighbors will enhance your daily experience. All roads are paved & maintained by the HOA; handsome homes populate The Mesa & smart Deed Restrictions preserve & protect property values. From the home site you'll experience breathtaking views of the Santa Rita's, Patagonia's & Canelo Hills as well as dazzling sunrises, sunsets & dark evening skies for ultimate star gazing. Coronado National Forest access is very close for endless adventuring, hiking & birding. \$75,000.

View the listing at: <http://www.flexmls.com/>

or call Rachel Marie Sink at 520-394-0110



Conservation Fund Update

BY SCOTT BUTLER

“The Story is the Trophy”

How do we measure the success of a hunt? Meat in the freezer? A taxidermy bill? All make it home safely? The success and the future for Wyoming's wild sheep depends on funding from license revenue, tax dollars from sportsmen and women when purchasing firearms [Pittman/Roberson], Wyoming Big Game License Coalition funding and groups like WSF which fund habitat projects, transplants, research both in the lab and on the ground and numerous others.

Many who are reading this have already invested in the future of wild sheep in this great state. We want to put front and center, the future generations, wild sheep and our youth both. What is the trophy? Children may be your most important. The Conservation Fund has surpassed the \$200,000 mark and interest earned has accomplished several on the ground habitat projects and awarded 2 lucky youth WWSF life memberships. Two more WWSF life memberships will be awarded to youth in attendance at our banquet June 2 in Casper. We hope you put front and center this banquet, and bring the future generations so they can learn about the wild sheep of WY and generate interest in their future. A Trophy for the WWSF is the story of the inception and fruition of these interest generating funds to be able to do our work. We encourage more involvement in the issues that are inherent to wild sheep.

A very special thank you to Rusty and Rosemary Gooch. They have shown their commitment to the future by the donation of a gracious real estate gift. The profits from the sale of this gift will be added to the Conservation Fund's principle, and that will be an investment in the future of kids and wild sheep in WY, and that Story is our Trophy. Visit our website and click 'news' and go to 'Jan 10th' to read more about this gift and the listing.

We are excited to offer a Dall's Sheep hunt raffle in NWT as a fund raiser. The funds raised will be invested in the foundation's Conservation Fund to add to what we have already accomplished.

While you are on the website visit all the menu options to catch up. Click on "Store" to register for the June banquet, and to purchase hunt and gun raffle tickets.

To leave a lasting memorial of a loved one go to Conservation Fund, then click 'memorial donors'.

Conservation Fund Total = \$206,994

Interest to date = \$26,459

GIAs funded = \$13,500

Life Memberships Awarded = 2

KEEPING KIDS AND WILD SHEEP
ON THE MOUNTAIN!

17th Annual Life Member Banquet

7:15 Am on June 2, 2108

Join with us at the Ramkota in Casper on June 2, 2108 at 7:15 in the ball room.

Visit with your fellow life members while enjoying a splendid filet mignon and eggs breakfast.

We will have a keynote speaker along with live and silent auction items many made or donated by life members.

This year the LIFE MEMBER INCENTIVE will be drawn at the Life Member Breakfast. The prize is \$5000.00 of banquet credit that may be spent on any item or items at the convention on Saturday to include but not limited to: games, raffles, live and silent auctions, life memberships and conservation fund contributions.

The prize must be spent at the banquet on June 2, 2018, there is no cash value once the banquet is over.

The event is free to life members but registration is necessary.

This year's breakfast is dedicated to the memory of Al Benton and the contributions that he and his family have made to the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation. All deceased life members will be recognized. Please assist us in ensuring that no one is passed over by messaging any missing or incorrect information by email to: info@wyomingwildsheep.org or by phoning Dean DiJenno at (307) 213-0998.

Our Deceased Life Members May they Rest in Peace

Glenn Anderson (D)
Ron Ball (D)
O.A. Benton(D)
Mike Brown(D)
David Cole(D)
Terry Davis (D)
Tom Easterly (D)
Mark Fountain (D)
Mike Lapeyre (D)
Ron Lockwood(D)
Mike Martin (D)

Fred Mau (D)
Keith Micke (D)
David Nahrgang (D)
Wally Needham (D)
Craig Pitters (D)
Gary Ploeckelmann (D)
Dan Pocapalia (D)
Jim Schroeder, MD (D)
Mike Tonn (D)
Brian Valentine (D)

Ron Wilmes(D)
Joe Vollmer (D)
C. Keith West (D)
Ron Wilmes(D)

2018 Banquet Seminars & Speakers

Saturday, June 2 at 1:00 PM

In the Theater Room

Kevin Monteith - Horn Size and Nutrition in Mountain Sheep: Can Ewe Handle the Truth?

Tayler Nichole LaSharr - Evaluating The Role Of Harvest, Demography And Changing Environments On Horn Size Of Mountain Sheep

Dr. Robert Garrott – Management of BH sheep herds given the ever presence of resident pneumonia pathogens

Kevin Hurley – Important updates for national WSF

Doug McWhirter – 2017 Harvest and Herd Unit status report

Mike Murry (Rawlins BLM) – Ferris Mtn. guzzler update

Andy Pils (Shoshone NF) – Fire Management, Pack Goat Update, Cabin Creek Habitat Enhancement Update

Guest Speaker – Legacy giving

Scott Talbott – WGFD Director – WGFD overview and Q/A period for general discussion.



2018 Life Member's Drawing for \$5000 Banquet Credit

On June 2, 2018, one lucky life member of Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation will win a \$5000 credit to be spent during the annual banquet. All life members of WY-WSF in attendance at our 2018 Life Member Breakfast will be entered into this drawing for a \$5000 banquet credit which can be used for any items available during the banquet including: live and silent auction items, games, raffles, life memberships and conservation fund donations.

Rules

- The winning life member **MUST** be registered for the banquet and present at the 2018 WY-WSF Life Member Breakfast on June 2, 2018 in Casper, WY.
- All new WY-WSF Life members will be entered once at the cost of a Life membership of \$500.00
- Every WY-WSF Life member registered and present will have their name entered once into this drawing at no additional cost.
- All new WY-WSF Life memberships must be paid in full before their name will be entered into this drawing.
- **The drawing will be held at the conclusion of the the Life Member Breakfast.**
- The winner will only be able to transfer the entire credit to another life member that is paid up, present, and registered at the 2018 banquet. The banquet credit may be donated to the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation to further chapter fund raising efforts.
- The winner of the banquet credit cannot sell, trade, or exchange this banquet credit for profit or cash.
- The WY-WSF board reserves the right to transfer the banquet credit to alternate Life members drawn the night of the banquet, if the first winner attempts to sell or trade this banquet credit.
- Any board member, volunteer, director, or officer who is also a life member, of Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation that is present and registered is eligible to win this hunt.
- **The value of this banquet credit may not be redeemed for cash.**
- One WY-WSF Life membership will be auctioned at the Saturday, June 2, 2018 Life member breakfast. This life membership will be auctioned and must be paid in full prior to the drawing for this banquet credit.

Visit our website at: www.wyomingwildsheep.org/membership.asp to purchase a life membership, or call Dean DiJenno at (307) 213-0098

Live Auction Items!

2019 Spring Brown Bear Hunt in Alaska with bonus Black Bear.

10 days hunting. Client responsible for AK hunting license \$160, Brown bear seal \$1000, travel to start of hunt{Kenai,AK}lodging and meals while not in field, shipment and care of trophy's after the hunt. Outfitter will supply food and lodging during the hunt, black bear seal {\$450}, bush plane flights during hunt. Outfitter not responsible for weather delays in and out of hunt area.

Outfitter: Richard Moran, Extreme Adventures, LLC Telephone: 907-301-3832

E-mail: extreme.adventures@yahoo.com



Unguided Alaskan Brooks Range Caribou and Moose Hunt for Two Hunters in 2019

Alaska: Bushwhacker Air Service - Jeff Kruse of Bushwhacker Air Service is donating Air Charter transportation for a Moose and Caribou combination hunt for two hunters (Unguided) in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Hunts are conducted on the southern slopes of the Brooks Range, GMU 25A. All hunts depart from Prospect Creek Landing Strip on the Dalton Highway (Haul road) at mile marker 137. Hunters may harvest two Caribou and one Moose. Black bear and wolf are available at no extra charge. Hunt includes transportation in and out of the field along with any acquired game. Additional hunters are welcome at the regular rate. This donation is good for available dates in the 2019 season only. For more information, contact Jeff Kruse at 907-458-8518 or by e-mail: jeff@bushwhackerairservice.com. Company's website: www.bushwhackerairservice.com.



EXPLORE! Adventures and Rivers South Safaris New Zealand Big Game Hunt



EXPLORE! Adventures in cooperation with Rivers South Safaris, would like to offer you the following adventure on the South Island of New Zealand for your donation to this event.

5 Night / 4 Day New Zealand Big Game Safari for your choice of two, three or four Hunters

To purchase this package on the market, the cost will be about \$9900. There is a low minimum bid of \$2995 for this donation. Trophy fees or air-fare are not included.

Choose your own New Zealand safari by selecting the date and trophy animals you wish to challenge. Within 45 days following the event, you select the date of the trip you wish to hunt then send your group's trophy deposit to EXPLORE! Adventures to reserve your date with Rivers South Safaris.

EXPLORE! Adventures/Rivers South New Zealand donation for the Big Game hunter includes:

- Luxury accommodation with at the Rivers South Safaris Lodge.
- 3 authentic New Zealand meals a day, New Zealand beer and wine in moderation.
- 4 full days of hunting, 2 hunters to 1 guide ratio.
- Pick up at Christchurch Airport and transportation to and from the Lodge.
- Assistance with New Zealand Temporary Firearm Import Permit.
- Assistance with securing your U.S. Customs and Border Patrol Form 4457
- Availability of a lodge rifle rental if you chose not to bring a rifle.
- Assistance with choosing a USDA Certified taxidermist (if needed) and trophy import broker.
- Field preparation of trophies for taxidermy



EXPLORE! Adventures
Phone: 307.293.9030



A Service of EXPLORE! LLC

www.exploreadventures.us
email: info@exploreadventures.us

This Donation Does Not Include:

- Any trophy fees of animals harvested or wounded.
- Airfare to Christchurch.
- Trophy Taxidermy, expediting or import fees.
- Accommodation before or after the hunt.
- Rifle Import Fee (~NZ\$50).
- Gratuities.



You will be accompanied by Rivers South Safaris personnel from the time you exit Christchurch Customs until the time that you are delivered back to the airline ticket counter. You can feel confident that you will be taken care of and make the memory of a lifetime.

** REMEMBER, THE MINIMUM DONATION IS \$2995 **

This event's donation requires two, three or four big game hunters and is valid for 2018 or 2019. Trip dates must be set by the auction winner within 45 days of the event. We will lock your chosen date with the receipt of a trophy fee deposit (\$2500 per hunter) to be applied to trophies taken while at RSS (the \$2500 deposit per hunter to lock your date is applied to your final bill at the Lodge, the deposit can be paid in two installments and is non-refundable). We suggest you buy travel insurance to protect your investment. It is very easy and reasonable to obtain. Best Season is March through June for Red Stag, Tahr and Chamois April through July. Auction winners: please notify EXPLORE! Adventures of your complete contact information, including email address so that we can start the process of getting you ready for your trip.

Additional hunters and non-hunters are welcome, contact us and we will get a current cost for you.

We will ask the donation winners to sign a liability waiver. This donated hunt is not transferable or refundable. Dates are first come-first served.

Best wishes,

Steve Sibrel
EXPLORE! Adventures
Email: steve@exploreadventures.us
Web: www.exploreadventures.us
Phone 307.259.6030



EXPLORE! Adventures
Phone: 307.293.9030



A Service of EXPLORE! LLC

www.exploreadventures.us
email: info@exploreadventures.us

Live Auction Item!

2017 Price List

May be small increase for 2018 TBA

Free Range Trophy Animal	Estimated Trophy Size	Cost in US\$
Chamois	8"+ or the biggest we can find	\$4,800.00
Bull Tahr	11"+ or the biggest we can find	\$5,400.00

New Zealand Estate* Hunts

Trophy Animal	Trophy Size	Cost in US\$
Red Stag	Up to SCI 360	\$5950.00
Red Stag	SCI 361 - 380	\$9250.00
Red Stag	SCI 381 - 400	\$14,500.00
Red Stag	SCI 401 - 600+	POR
Fallow Buck	Starting At	\$4500.00
Bull Tahr	Biggest Bull we can find to 14"	\$5400.00
Bull Tahr	14" or better, starting at	\$7000.00
Chamois	Biggest we can find	\$4800.00
Arapawa Ram	Biggest we can find	\$2500.00
Feral Goat	Biggest we can find	\$2500.00
Feral Boar	Biggest we can find	\$3500.00

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Wapiti (Elk & Stag Cross)	Starting at:	\$6000.00
Trout Fishing	October thru April	\$700.00/Day
North Island Hunting	Rusa, Sambar & Sika Stag	POR
New Caledonia Hunting	World Class Rusa Stag	POR
Touring from Lodge	Local Guided Site Seeing	\$125/Day for Guide & Car
Touring South Island	Guided Site Seeing	\$500/Day for Guide & Car

* Estate Hunts are fair chase, high fence hunts on 2.35 to 6.25 square mile mountainous ranches.



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Live Auction Items!

5th & Final 2018 Wyoming Governor's BHS License!!

2018 WGF Commissioner's Elk/Deer/Pronghorn License

Fully donated by WGF Commissioner Mark Anselmi –Rock Springs

Colt Blackpowder 44 cal Revolver, Signature Series. Cylinder engraving and Sam Colt signature on back strap. Donated by Celeste Schroeder (LM 528) in memory of her loving husband and hunting partner, Jim (LM205). New in the box.

Sheep Shoulder Mount donated by Hartman Taxidermy

5 day/4 night Action Whitewater Adventures raft trip for 2 on the Salmon River

The WY-WSF 2018 Banquet Rifle, a Cooper model 92 backcountry in .280 Ackley with specially engraved barrel donated by Leo and Cari Goss

3 Day Area 58 Cow Elk Hunt for 1 donated by 7D Ranch Outfitting, LLC - Meade and Andrea Dominick

The third annual "BANQUET KNIFE"- It has a 440 stainless steel blade with the WY-WSF logo and date (2018) engraved. The handle is of elk antler and it comes with an antler display stand. Custom made and donated by Barto's Antler Knives of Dubois, WY.

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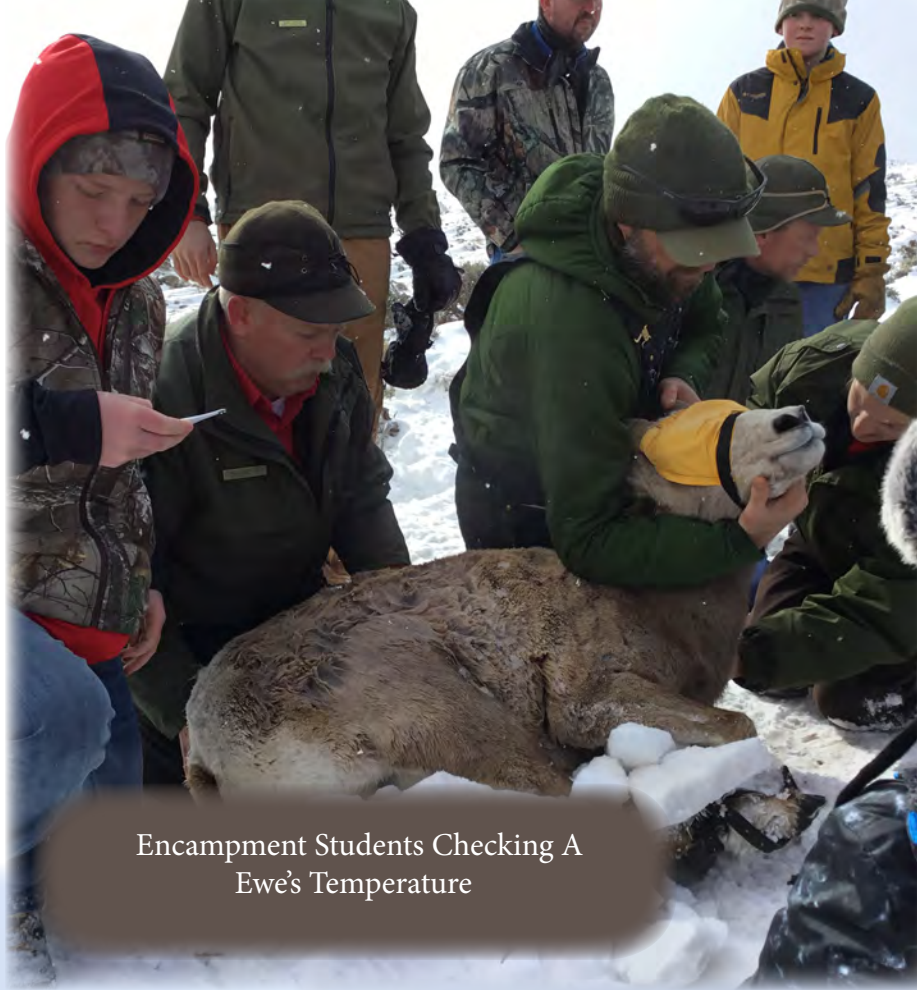
Students Take To The Field To Assist With Wild Sheep Capture And Disease Testing By Will Schulz, G&F Biologist.

The Wyoming Game and Fish department captured 5 bighorn sheep ewes in the Encampment River herd unit on February 28th; as part of the statewide disease surveillance project.

We are teaming this as an educational project for Mr. Jordan Seitz's 6th and 8th grade classes at the nearby Encampment School.

We intend to involve the students in monitoring the collared ewes over the course of the next 2 years - getting them out in the field to assist with habitat monitoring and lamb surveys, and teaching them about bighorn sheep ecology in the classroom.

Photo credits: Jordan Seitz



Encampment Students Checking A Ewe's Temperature



Encampment Teacher Jordan Seitz with a few of his students



Do you know of similar projects in your area? If so the WY-WSF would like to know. Call us at (307)213-0998 or email to:

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Live Auction Items!

2020 BC 10 Day Mountain Goat hunt for 1 with Wicked River Outfitters

Mountain goats are truly a magnificent animal and an incredibly challenging species to hunt. Mountain Goat hunting is a very physically demanding hunt, for many hunters it is the toughest hunt they have ever done. Our goal is to get you a great billy and as long as you are in reasonable shape and have a good mental outlook, our guides can get you in position on a trophy animal.

We can get to these “kings of the mountain” by backpacking from spike camps. Often we are able to limit the amount of hiking by using horses. Using the horses allows you to travel deep into the back country, not to mention that it really saves your body until your goat is spotted and it's time to climb. The horses also allow you to cover a lot of ground during your hunt and eliminate long approaches to the mountain. We strongly advise our clients to be in excellent physical condition prior to undertaking this adventure.

The season for this species is August 15 to October 15. The average horn size is 8-10 inches.

References: Dale Sims (307)899-0470
and Ray Lozier (307) 587-4779



2018 BC 10 Day Moose hunt for 1 with Wicked River Outfitters

Wicked River Outfitters area is the host to high densities of Canadian moose. These are good quality bulls with antlers that typically measure from about 45 inches to about 55 inches in span. The vastness of our guide territory allows us to offer several different types of moose hunts without sacrificing the quality of the hunt. The hunts are 10 days long and guided 1 on 1. Hunting methods include Horseback, 4x4 side-by-side from basecamp or on foot that can be tailored to anyone regardless of age or physical ability. Black bear can be hunted on any fall hunt on a trophy fee basis. The hunt is Oct 4-15, 2018.



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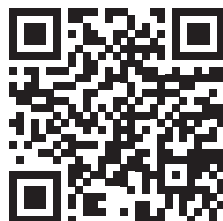
See our full ad on page 51

Live Auction Item!

Coues Deer Hunt in Mexico-Rio Sonora Outfitters

2018/19 or 19/20 Coues hunt: a 1 on 1 guided hunt to occur based on availability from Jan. 25th - Feb. 10th time frame. A 5 to 5.5 day hunt with everything included (all legal paperwork/license/tag, gun permit, transportation from Tucson International Airport) with an option for a second hunter or party up to 4 depending on availability. Normal hunt price is \$4250.00.

Trophy Fees - Whitetail Hunts: \$750.00 any deer, \$1000.00 for 100-109 7/8” buck, \$1500.00 for 110-114 7/8” buck, \$2000.00 for 115-119 7/8” buck, \$2500.00 for 120 –124 7/8” buck, \$3000.00 for 125-129 7/8” buck, \$3500.00 for 130-134 7/8” buck, \$4000.00 for 135-139 7/8” buck, \$5000.00 for 140-144 7/8” buck, \$5500.00 for 145-149 7/8” buck and \$7500.00 for a 150”+ buck (all scores are based on gross or SCI score). Non-hunting guests are welcome pending ranch accommodations and transportation for \$450.00 each.





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This is a 10 day helicopter assisted backpack hunt for Dall's sheep hunt in NWT for 2019. Weapon of hunters choice, dates agreed upon between hunter and Raven's Throat. Hunter responsible for \$2000 round trip charter flight, NWT government hunting licenses and harvest fees(\$550 total) plus \$100 hunter preservation fee required. 5% CAN GST on above costs. Also gratuities to Guides. All costs stated in US funds

To purchase tickets, visit: **www.wyomingwildsheep.org/**.
Visit us in booth 853 at the WSF Convention in Reno.

Dec 17, 2017

Dear Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation;

In September 2017 I had the opportunity to go on a combination Dall's sheep/Caribou hunt with Raven's Throat Outfitter's in the beautiful Mackenzie mountains of Canada's Northwest Territories. Raven's Throat Outfitter's is owned and operated by Greg "Griz" Turner and his wife Ginger.

Their hunting territory encompasses 6000 sq. miles of some of the most magnificent country on this planet. It is a vast untouched wilderness of varied terrain and scenery. I have lived between Cody, Wyoming and Yellowstone National Park for the last 23 years and have had the good fortune of spending a significant amount of time in the backcountry here, so I truly appreciate wild places. It was somewhat surreal to be sitting up on the mountain in the NWT and thinking.....as far as I could see in any direction...there was not a road, a structure, an area that had been logged....not a camp or other human being that was not with our group....really amazing.

The area is rich with game....sheep, caribou, moose, grizzly bears, wolves, wolverine's and the list goes on. The base camp is on a beautiful lake loaded with lake trout and grayling. Access is by float plane and the flight in was awesome. Hunter's quarters are comfortable with propane heat and a central bath/shower area. There is a centrally located dining area with a large deck overlooking the lake. The food was outstanding and the chef, Beth, took great pride in the meals she provided.

Access to your hunting area was by helicopter. The area is so big that it would take days on horseback to reach many of them. By allowing access by air keeps easier to reach areas from being over-hunted and minimizes pressure on any certain places. You cannot hunt for 12 hours after flying so we would usually fly out to our spike camp in the afternoon and set up camp. We could glass from camp but not go out into the field. An evening meal and then a good night's sleep and off on the hunt in the morning. All hunting was done on foot but the terrain was not that difficult to hike around in. If you spend some time preparing to hike you should not have any problems getting around.

I was lucky to take a really beautiful ram and a very nice caribou. My ram was in a group of 5.....2 other's were just as nice. That group was not hunted again that season.....that is the beauty of being able to manage your own game herds. Those other two big sheep were left alone to breed and if they make the winter..... will be there next fall.

This trip was truly one of a lifetime and I cannot say enough good things regarding the entire adventure. I am planning to go back as soon as I can.....I know there is a big Alaska- Yukon moose waiting for me out there! My best wishes for the winner of this raffle.....you will have a great time.

Best,
Dr. Dave Pendray



GRANT IN AID UPDATES

The Saga of the Forgotten Ewe By Dr. Kevin Monteith, Tayler LaSharr

Have you ever heard others talk about how animals in a particular region are so much larger than another, and almost inevitably they referenced genetics being the reason for growing big males in one region compared with the other? A recent paper published in a special issue on management of mountain sheep in the *Journal of Wildlife Management* calls attention to what is potentially an even more important driver of size of males than is genetics. Along with 4 other collaborators on the paper, Dr. Kevin Monteith and Tayler LaSharr at the University of Wyoming discuss the importance of nutrition in producing large males.

Although age, genetics, and nutrition all play a role in the size of a male, their relative contributions are not equal. Age is a critical factor for an individual male to reach a large size for both an antlered and a horned animal, but the reason for that is ultimately nutrition. Growth of horns and antlers does not come for free, but is quite costly, and for a young growing male, it is more important that they prioritize body growth over investment in structures on their head—which are nonessential to survival. Moreover, for female ungulates (hooved mammals), it is of their best strategy to live a long time to reproduce. To help assure that possibility, mothers typically are selfish relative to how they use their energy, meaning they ultimately will protect themselves first and second, invest that energy into their growing young. Consequently, when mothers are nutritionally stressed, they will lack the ability to provision their offspring, and in so doing, mom can set the stage of growth

for the lifetime of that individual male. It's known as a maternal effect. And that maternal effect can set the trajectory for growth of an individual male, regardless of whether or not things get better for him later in life.

The authors report on work of 6 unhunted herds of bighorn sheep in the Sierra Nevada of California where the size of males between herds differed markedly. Through monitoring of adult females across those herds, the authors could explain most of the variation in horn size among the 6 herds simply by how fat the females were in either autumn or spring—herds with the fattest females produced the largest males. Although this a very convincing example, the authors report on multiple others wherein the importance of nutrition and in particular, female nutrition has an overwhelming effect on size of males. The authors also suggest that with all the hyperbole surrounding trophy management and big horns, the importance of females in the management of bighorn sheep has been largely forgotten. They call for greater recognition of the role of females in producing males, but their recommendation to consider female harvest to help bolster nutrition may seemingly conflict with that notion. Although habitat treatments and other conservation actions can definitely help enhance habitat and improve nutrition, the only way to regulate the nutrition available to animals in a population is to control its abundance through female harvest. That is, habitat and food is not unlimited and therefore, there is only so much food to go around for the population. As

a population grows, the relative amount of food available to each female decreases and thus, will have a cascading effect on the productivity of the population and the size of males produced.

Controlling abundance by harvesting females can in turn leave more food per female for those that remain, thereby increasing the fatness of the remaining animals and bolstering their ability to produce and grow large males.

All the same, our society is not accustomed to harvest of females as we have been seeking to increase sizes of populations or establish new populations for decades—a very different mindset than thinking about controlling population abundance. And indeed, in many instances populations may be afflicted by pneumonia and could not tolerate female harvest. In other instances however, the authors suggest that we may well increase the production of large, trophy males via female harvest, and in so doing, benefit the population in many other ways by increasing nutrition and the fat animals carry.

Ultimately, they call for greater attention to be given to the role that females and their nutrition plays within sheep populations and the production of large males.

For more information, please visit: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/jwmg.21338/full>

GRANT IN AID UPDATES



Photo by Mark Gocke

GRANT IN AID UPDATES

Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation And Partners Improve Wildlife Habitat In Devil's Canyon By Sarah Beckwith, Blm Wind River/Bighorn Basin District Public Affairs Specialist

The Bureau of Land Management Cody Field Office values its ongoing partnership with the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation, Big Horn County Weed and Pest and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation to improve wildlife habitat in the Devil's Canyon area east of Lovell. The group recently completed ten years of cheat grass treatments for the benefit of bighorn sheep and other wildlife. Partnerships like this are an essential component of the BLM's mission to practice shared conservation stewardship on public land.

During fall 2017, imazapic herbicide (Plateau) was sprayed from a helicopter on 233 acres of BLM-managed public land to combat cheat grass expansion. To date, 1,200 acres of public land have been treated in the Devil's Canyon area, with treatments expected to continue over the next several years.

"As we have seen in the Bighorn Basin, cheat grass has the potential to increase and dominate plant communities by rapidly displacing native species," said Bryan McKenzie, BLM range management specialist who coordinates the project for the Cody Field Office. "The goal of the treatment is to provide the slower growing native plants, many of which are tolerant of Plateau, with time to recover and compete."

Long-term monitoring studies have been established in the project area and preliminary results show an upward trend in native vegetation.

"It takes partnerships like this to maintain productive habitat for bighorn sheep," said Steve Kilpatrick, executive director of the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation. "The sheep need high-quality groceries to maintain body condition, ward off

diseases, reproduce, have healthy, larger lambs and grow big horns."

The Devil's Canyon area on the west slope of the Bighorn Mountains contains important wildlife habitat for elk, deer and greater sage-grouse, in addition to bighorn sheep. The productive and growing resident bighorn sheep herd is regularly used to augment bighorn sheep populations elsewhere in Wyoming.

BLM partnerships like this one with Big Horn County Weed and Pest, Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation are vital to the BLM's mission of keeping public landscapes healthy and productive for the benefit of wildlife, traditional land uses like grazing, and other resources and uses. All partners contributed to funding and application of the herbicide.



For more information,
please contact McKenzie
at 307-578-5900.

GRANT IN AID UPDATES



2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Meeting our mission to educate people about bighorn sheep and the conservation of wildlife and wild lands.



44 Special Events

21 PRESENTATIONS, OUTINGS & CELEBRATIONS
18 GUIDED FIELD TOURS
4 RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES
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OVER 913 PEOPLE PARTICIPATED



7,702 students reached

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“Ramming Speed”



Photo by Ross Gorman





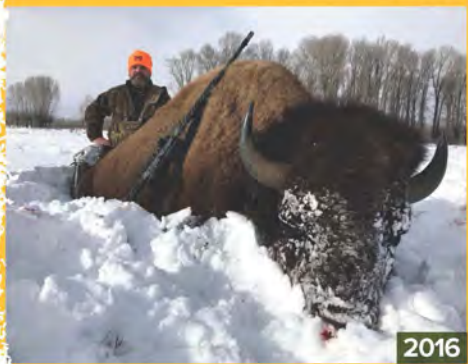
2016



2017



2017



2016



2017



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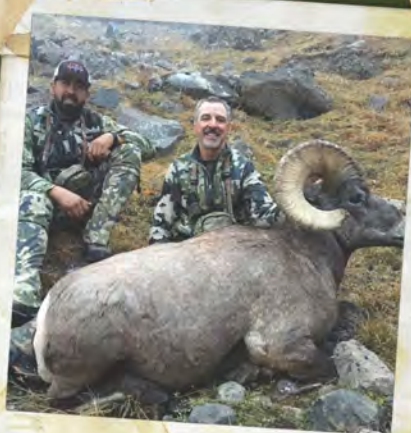
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2016 Super Tag
bighorn sheep Winner
Jeff Campagna

Zack Deberard: 2017 Wyoming Super Tag Hunting Adventure

Zack Deberard of Laramie could not believe his ears when he got the phone call from the Game and Fish that he was the 2017 Wyoming Super Tag Trifecta raffle winner, especially since he only bought one ticket. The Wyoming Super Tag Trifecta allows one winner to choose any three hunting licenses among the ten different big game and trophy game species offered in the Super Tag raffle. Zack picked the hardest licenses to draw for his Trifecta hunts: moose, bighorn sheep, and mountain goat. Although Zack is a life-long Wyoming hunter, he'd never had the opportunity to pursue any of these animals, until that day of the lucky phone call.

Zach harvested his moose with his Mathews Switchback bow between Cheyenne and Laramie. It was an evening hunt and the moose expired

in a beaver pond, which meant a late night recovery, but a fantastic hunt nonetheless. Zack hunted with Josh Martoglio of Shoshone Lodge Outfitters for his bighorn sheep and mountain goat. His bighorn was taken in early September up the Greybull River in a high-mountain,

horseback adventure. Zack's mountain goat hunt occurred north of Cody in late October. He finally connected with a beautiful billy three days before close of the season. "The Super Tag Trifecta offers hunters the greatest hunting experience in the West", says Zack. Zack also wants to be sure to include a big "thank you" to his wife Johanna, who held down the fort during his epic quest to complete his...



**Wyoming
Super Tag Trifecta.**

GRANT IN AID UPDATES

MOUNTAIN UNGULATES IN THE TETON RANGE

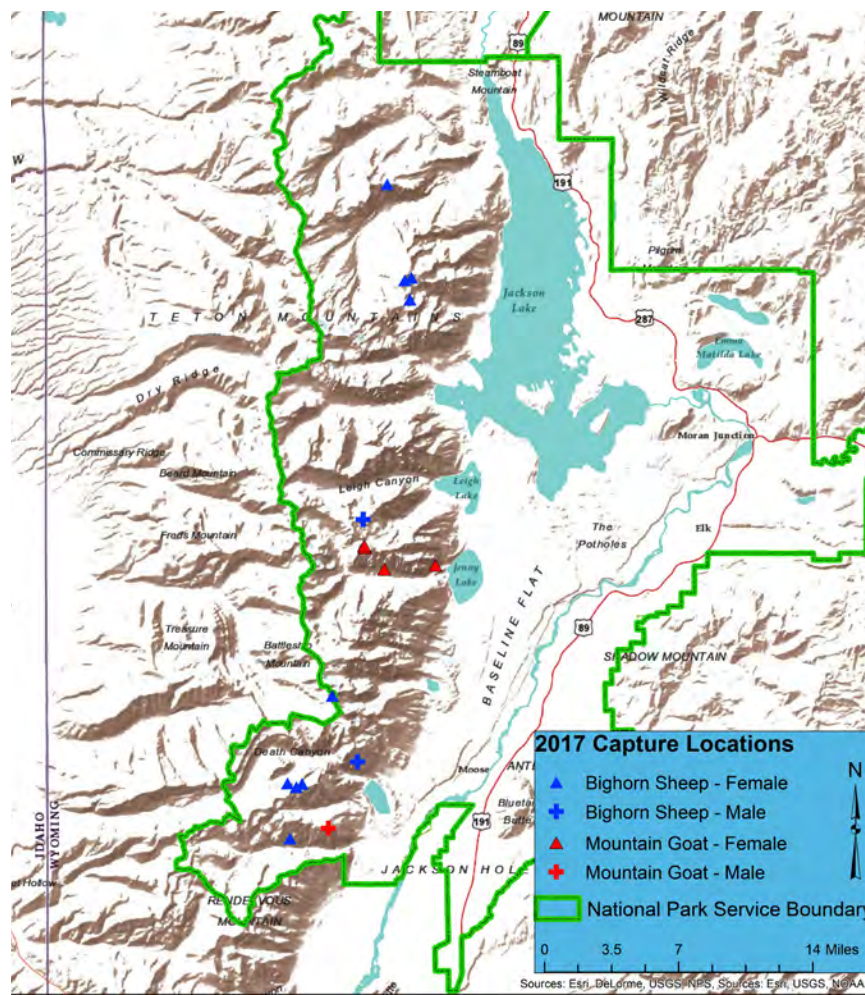
By Carson Butler-GTNP Biologist

For millennia bighorn sheep have roamed the Teton Range and surrounding areas. Most bighorns that spent the summers fattening up in the high elevations of the Teton Range migrated to lower elevations in Jackson Hole as well as the Teton River and Snake River corridors where they wintered and bred with other bighorns that summered in adjacent areas. Like many other bighorn populations during the 19th and 20th centuries, Teton Range bighorn sheep were nearly wiped out by habitat loss, disrupted migration routes, over harvest, and disease and competition from large flocks of domestic sheep that were grazed in bighorn habitat. By 1950 no bighorn sheep migrated out of the Tetons and the remnant population became isolated from surrounding populations. The population has dwindled to about 60-80 animals that eke out winters on windswept ridges on the crest of the range amid massive snowstorms and a growing number of backcountry recreationalists who seek out the powder these storms produce. For the last decade, bighorn sheep have also shared

the Tetons with a non-native mountain goat population that currently numbers around 100 individuals and is rapidly growing. These mountain goats are thought to have colonized the Tetons from the Snake River Range just to the south, where mountain goats share range with domestic sheep and carry the bacteria responsible for pneumonia in bighorn sheep. Research has found the Teton Range could hold as many as 400 mountain goats which concerns biologists about the risk of competition and disease transmission with the small bighorn sheep population. Biologists fear the reign of bighorn sheep in the Teton

Range could come to end if nothing is done to help them. To better monitor both the bighorn sheep and mountain goat populations in the Teton Range, Grand Teton National Park and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department have worked together to capture and sample bighorn sheep and mountain goats in the Teton Range in January and December of 2017. Captured animals were sexed, aged, weighed, GPS radio-collared, and sampled for pneumonia pathogens before being released. The information collected through this effort will be used to track survival, better estimate population

size, track habitat use and investigate the factors that influence it, and assess the potential for disease transmission between the species. January brought challenging weather for captures and six bighorns were captured before the helicopter team had to move on. December brought more favorable conditions



GRANT IN AID UPDATES

and the capture crew was able to capture and sample 12 bighorn sheep and five mountain goats in a five-day window. For this mountain range, that is a huge success! Most animals have been captured within the known wintering areas for their species, however a billy mountain goat was captured and GPS-collared in the southern portion of The Park where mountain goats were not previously known to winter. This combined with increasing summer observations of mountain goats throughout the range tell biologists the goat herd is starting to balloon into the core range of the bighorns. Although the radio-collars have been on for just a short time, they are already indicating that the bighorn sheep experience high winter mortality rates: two of six ewes captured in January 2017 died before summer and one ewe captured in December 2017 died two months after being captured. Dangerous winter conditions have prevented timely investigation of mortality sites for these animals; however, avalanche is the suspected cause of at least one death. The timing and locations of the mortalities provide clues as to why the bighorn population has declined in the last decade. In contrast to the bighorn sheep, no radio-collared mountain goats from the Teton Range have died. Relative to surrounding bighorn sheep and mountain goat populations, relatively few pneumonia pathogens were found in the Teton Range bighorn sheep or mountain goat populations. This was a surprise in the mountain goats due to their likely origin in the Snake

River Range and was a surprise in the bighorn sheep due to historic domestic sheep grazing in the Teton Range. The exact cause of pneumonia die-offs in bighorn sheep is not known but the disease typically involves simultaneous infection by two groups of bacteria commonly called “M.ovi” and “Pasteurellas”. Pasteurella bacteria were found in both the bighorn sheep and mountain goats that were sampled, but M.ovi was not found in either species. Overall, the pathogen test results and a lack of hallmark pneumonia signs in the bighorn sheep population (e.g. multiple years of failed lamb crops) do not point to pneumonia as the cause of the recent decline in the bighorn population. Biologists are cautiously optimistic the bighorn sheep and mountain goats in Teton Range do not host a pathogen community that puts the bighorns at high risk of developing pneumonia. As most know, however, just because something isn't found doesn't mean it doesn't exist. In order to confirm the origin of the Teton Range mountain goats and better understand how mountain goats could immigrate into the Teton Range in the future, Grand Teton National Park also initiated a genetics study in collaboration with Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Idaho Fish and Game Department, Yellowstone National

Park, Montana State University, and the U.S. Geological Survey. Past capture efforts across the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem were essential to the project's success in obtaining over 100 genetic samples from three mountain goat populations in Wyoming, including the Snake River Range, the Teton Range, and the Northern Absaroka/Beartooth Range populations. While geneticists analyze these samples in the coming months, biologists will continue monitoring efforts and weigh their options to help keep the Teton Range bighorn sheep on the mountain. These efforts to conserve the Teton Range bighorn sheep are funded by the Wyoming Chapter of Wildlife Sheep Foundation, Eastern Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation, Wyoming Governor's Big Game License Coalition, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, and Grand Teton National Park.



GRANT IN AID UPDATES

Understanding the Effects of Hunting on Horn Size

Taylor LaSharr and Kevin Monteith

Hunting of wild populations is an important part of our heritage, and plays a critical role in the management and conservation of wildlife. Bighorn sheep in particular are an iconic and beloved symbol of hunting across the West. Recent controversy, however, has raised concerns about how hunting may influence the size of horns in bighorn sheep over time. Under very intensive and selective (harvest that targets a specific size or characteristic) hunting pressures, there is evidence that over time, horns can get smaller because of changes in the genetics of a population that result from the consistent removal of males with large horns. Nevertheless, most research on the subject has been conducted within herds or jurisdictions with intensive and selective harvest that in general, is not representative of harvest regimes for most sheep populations in North America. Therefore, the question remains as to the level of concern warranted over current harvest practices and their contributions to sustaining the genetics that contribute to large horns. Beyond genetics, however, there are several other factors that influence size of horns of bighorn sheep, most importantly, nutrition and age. In horned species, age plays the most important role in determining horn size, because animals continually grow their horns throughout their life and do not shed them annually, like antlered species. If there is a shift in the age structure of a population and young males become more common

than old males, the average age of harvested males likely will decrease through time. With a decrease in the age of harvested males, we expect to see an accompanying decrease in the average horn size, because age is such an important factor in determining horn size of individuals. To understand the influence of harvest on horn size of bighorn sheep, researchers at the University of Wyoming have collated harvest data from mountain sheep, collected from state and provincial agencies throughout the West to assess changes in the size of horns over the past 30 years. Understanding age trends is critical to understanding how harvest is influencing the size of horns through time. In Wyoming, the average age of harvested rams have either increased or remained constant over the past 30 years. In hunt areas 2, 4, 5, 10, 12, 19, 21, and 23, there were increases in the age of harvested males, while in all other hunt areas there was no change in the average age of harvested males over time. When assessing changes in horn size, after taking age into account, eight hunt areas that did exhibit changes in the average age at harvest over time, only one of those hunt areas, area 19 a change in actual size of horns grown as an animal ages. More simply, in hunt area 19, a 7-year old harvested today is larger than a 7-year old harvested in 1980. In the other seven areas that had increases in the average age of harvested males over time, there was no detectable change in growth of horns; that is, a 7-year old

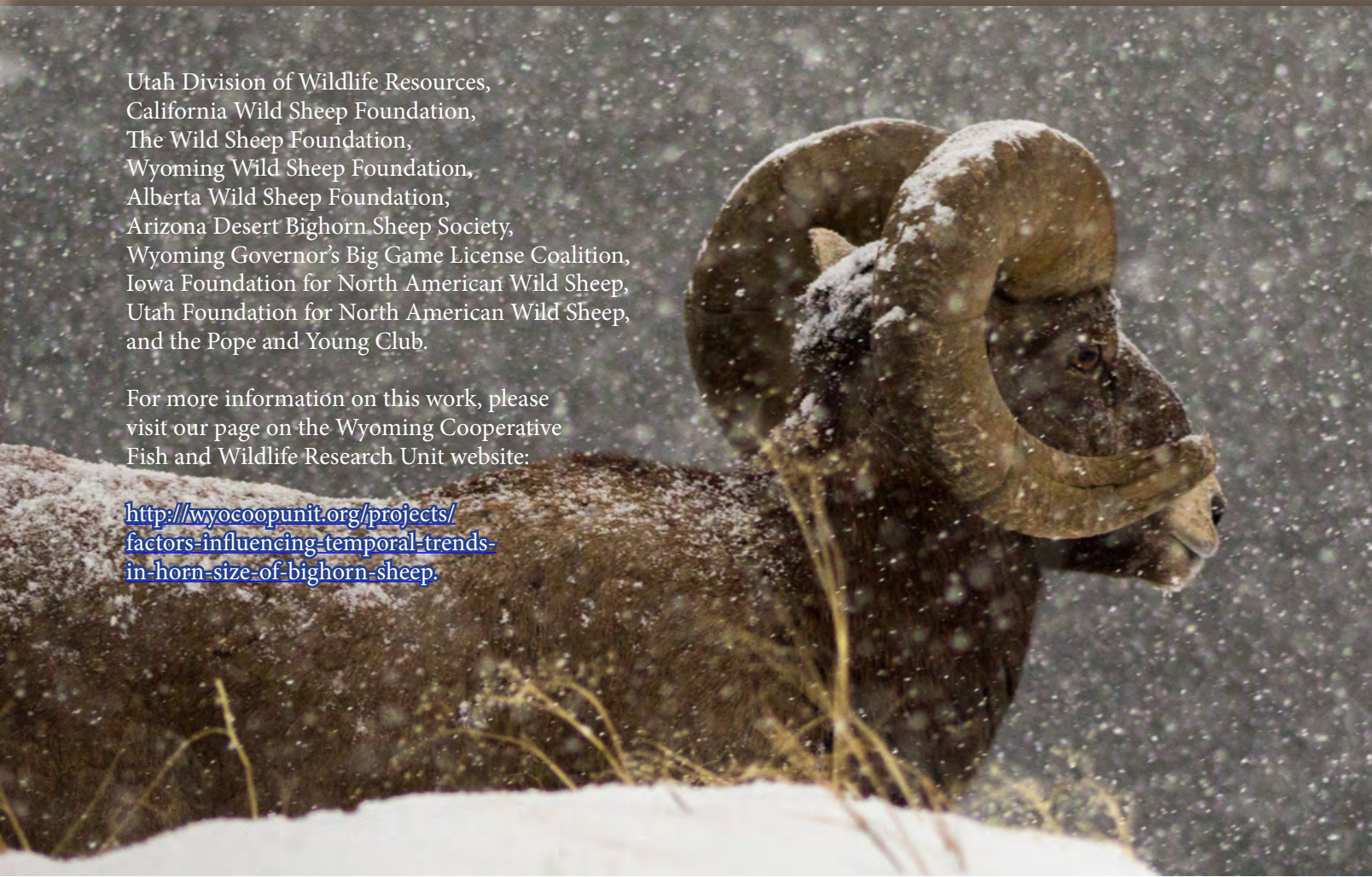
harvested today would be roughly the same size as a 7-year old harvested in 1980 in areas 2, 4, 5, 10, 12, 21 and 23. Of the thirteen hunt areas that did not have changes in the average age of harvested males over time, only one area, hunt area 10, had age-specific decreases in horn size over time (a 7-year old harvested today would be smaller than a 7-year old harvested in 1980). This hunt area includes the Whisky Basin herd, which has a history of both disease and nutritional limitation, which in part could contribute to detected declines in horn size. The next steps of this work are to identify how environmental conditions and patterns of harvest may affect changes in horn size. This work strives to provide an understanding of the sustainability of hunting in North America and to identify what harvest practices may result in undesirable changes to populations. This work is led by Taylor LaSharr and Dr. Kevin Monteith through the Haub School of the Environment and Natural Resources and the Wyoming Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Unit at the University of Wyoming and in collaboration with Dr. Ryan Long, Jim Heffelfinger, Dr. Vern Bleich, Dr. Terry Bowyer, Dr. Paul Krausman, Dr. Robert Klaver, and Justin Shannon. Data were provided by state and provincial biologist and managers from across western North America. Financial support comes from the following organizations;

GRANT IN AID UPDATES

Utah Division of Wildlife Resources,
California Wild Sheep Foundation,
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Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society,
Wyoming Governor's Big Game License Coalition,
Iowa Foundation for North American Wild Sheep,
Utah Foundation for North American Wild Sheep,
and the Pope and Young Club.

For more information on this work, please
visit our page on the Wyoming Cooperative
Fish and Wildlife Research Unit website:

[http://wyocoopunit.org/projects/
factors-influencing-temporal-trends-
in-horn-size-of-bighorn-sheep.](http://wyocoopunit.org/projects/factors-influencing-temporal-trends-in-horn-size-of-bighorn-sheep)



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(continued from page 5)

of mountain sheep 4 miles east of Independence Rock.

1849 - June 28 - Wistar saw a large band of ewes and lambs near South Pass.

1876 - July 3 - General Cook and party take 2 bighorns off from Cloud Pk. in the Bighorn Mtns. They reported sheep trails throughout the mountains. They took 3 more sheep on their way back to camp along the Tongue River. They took 2 more when they got back to camp in the foothills along the Tongue R.

1876 - Late September - early October - General Cook and a small hunting party take 4 mountain sheep near the summit of Laramie Peak.

1879 - A ram and five ewes seen in the vicinity of Sheridan.

1880 - Flocks of domestic sheep brought in from Oregon and die offs started to occur regularly.

1880 - Otto Franc, cattleman from the Pitchfork Ranch on the Upper Greybull River, found "...thousands of bighorns wintering along the foothills of that river".

1881 - Only a few scattered tens of live bighorns in the same area of the Greybull River, but dead bighorns were numerous, from scab. Records of scab among mountain sheep in this era were statewide.

1881 - Bighorns were present in the peaks of the Green River west of the Red Desert. During the winter of 1881, bighorns were seen in the badlands along the Green River near the Wyoming-Utah line.

1881 - Baillie-Grohman in the Green River Canyon near the Wyoming-Utah line found there were vast numbers of bighorns using the range in the summer. Bighorns were scattered throughout the badlands of SW Wyoming.

1887 - A map of areas in Wyoming known to be inhabited by bighorn

sheep showed them present in most of the Wind River Mountains.

1894 - Between 200- 300 head seen in the area comprising the heads of the Green, Hoback, and Gros Ventre rivers.

1898-99 - Winter - Simpson records seeing 400 bighorns along the Gros Ventre River in a mild winter.

1894 - O.C. Graetz saw two sheep on Oregon Butte near the Sweetwater River.

1905-6 - Bighorns seen in the Granite Mountains near the mouth of the Sweetwater River.

1906 - Since this time, bighorns are found in satisfactory numbers only within high mountain areas.

1934 - USFS and WGFD counted 1,205 sheep in the Gros Ventre and Crystal Creek herd. Die-off in winters of 1934-35 and 1935-36. By 1940 it numbered only 225.

1934 - Reintroduced 20 bighorns in the Bighorn National Forest. The estimated ruminant population was 45 head.

1942 - Estimated Wyoming population - 2,500 (Honesty & Frost, 1942).

1960 - Estimated Wyoming population - 2,000 (Buechner, 1960)

2018 - Estimated Wyoming population - 6,500-6,700 (Wy Game and Fish Dept.)

NOTE: While there is no stated estimate of Wyoming's bighorn population in the early 1800's, early accounts indicate it was in the tens of thousands.

I hope these abbreviated accounts, and your mental images, provided you with a historical view of bighorns across Wyoming. As you can see, things looked quite dismal in the mid 1900's, but because of support from YOU, bighorns have made a bit of a comeback. Thank you for helping WY-WSF put and keep KIDS and SHEEP on our mountains.



GRANT IN AID UPDATES

Habitat Enhancements Require Partnerships

By Kerry Murphy, Shoshone FS Biologist

The Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, and the U.S. Forest Service are teaming up to improve winter habitat of Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep by mechanically reducing conifers near Cody, Wyoming. Shoshone National Forest lands in this area provide crucial winter range for the Absaroka bighorn sheep herd, the largest in North America.

During the winter, bighorn sheep forage on native grasses and shrubs in the valley bottom of the South Fork of the Shoshone River where snow is typically shallow. In the absence of wildfire, conifers such as juniper and limber pine have increased in coverage and reduced the quantity of sheep forage. Conifer cover also inhibits sheep habitat use by reducing their sense of security. This sight-based animal depends on the opportunity to see through habitat and spot predators.

Successful habitat management of bighorn sheep winter range commonly involves removing

conifers to increase the coverage of open grasslands and improve horizontal visibility. The expected result is improved over-winter lamb survival and continued success in achieving the herd's population management objectives. The project area is also

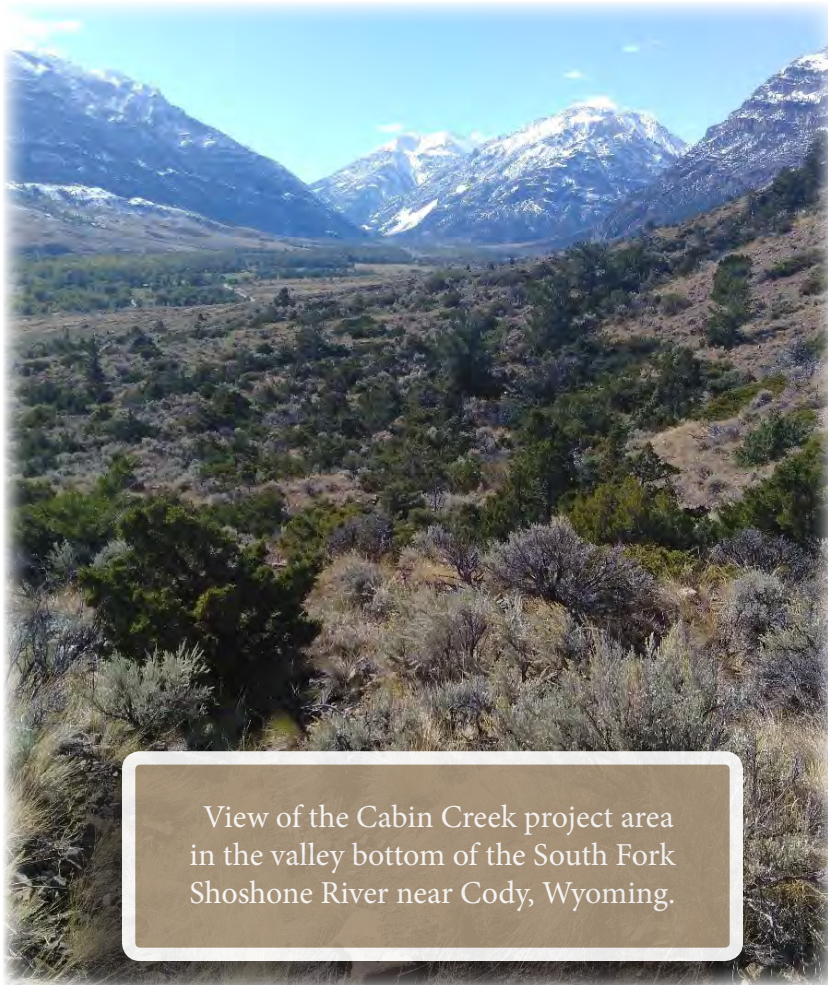
Conifer removal will reduce fuel loading and improve the ability of the Forest Service firefighters to protect private property.

The project area encompasses 600 acres at the base of a steep mountain slope. Multiple units

will undergo an assortment of vegetation treatments. Shoshone Forest chainsaw crews and private contractors will cut conifers, and then scatter or pile slash for burning at a later time. Additionally, a private contractor equipped with a tracked vehicle that supports a masticating head will remove conifers, terrain permitting. Work will occur during the spring, summer, and fall months when bighorn sheep and other big game are absent.

This project carries important design features that project

soils, waterways, and the visual appearance of the landscape. Some conifers will be retained to protect soils from erosion, particularly adjacent to streams and rivulets. Treatments will rely primarily on mechanical methods rather than fire to avoid the spread of existing weed populations. Weeds



View of the Cabin Creek project area in the valley bottom of the South Fork Shoshone River near Cody, Wyoming.

within crucial winter range for mule deer and elk, species that also benefit from increased forage that results from conifer removal.

In the South Fork watershed, conifer expansion has also led to the accumulation of tall woody fuels adjacent to private property.

were sprayed prior to the onset of treatments, and will continue to be sprayed during and after completion of the project.

Funding for the project is being provided by the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust Fund, the Governor's Big Game License Coalition, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department Habitat Trust Fund, and the U.S. Forest Service. Jerry Altermatt, Terrestrial Habitat Biologist with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Cody Region; and Andy Pils, Wildlife, Fisheries, and Rare Plants Manager with the Shoshone National Forest are providing expertise in project design and will administer the project.



Rocky mountain bighorn sheep in their native habitat, project area.

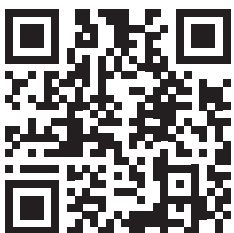


A Forest Service fuels technician removes a juniper bush during fall implementation of the Cabin Creek project.



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BITTER - SWEET

by Celeste Schroeder and Steve Kilpatrick

Jim Schroeder first took his loving wife, Celeste, deer hunting in North Dakota some 24 years ago. Having grown up as a farm/ranch kid, she took a fancy to hunting. She especially liked those outdoor experiences. They were so heartwarming and refreshing. And, she had the best hunting partner ever! Not only did they hunt together, they worked together - her an x-ray technician and him a diagnostic radiologist.

Dubois. They moved into a cozy acreage west of town in 1996, where they had views of the Ram's Horn and the Fitzpatrick Wilderness was their backyard. There they would live with the full suite of wildlife species that come with those majestic mountains; elk, moose, deer, BH sheep, G bears, B bears, mountain lions.

Jim and Celeste cherished and treasured their time viewing and hunting most of those species, many of them right from their house. And,

I mean literally, right from their house. Celeste once shot a cow elk from their house deck. She also took a coyote while sitting in their hot tub. Top that! They felt so fortunate to live in such a beautiful and wildlife rich environment.

While Jim and Celeste were thankful for their hunting experiences, the wildlife and the magnificent mountains they now lived in, they

longed to snag one of those coveted Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep tags. Well, after 19 years Jim struck gold in 2015 with a unit 10 sheep tag. That ended 19 years of saying, "I sure hope I draw a sheep tag before

I'm too old."

However, Mother Time had been landing some solid blows on Jim, as she does on all of us. He was dealing with heart and back issues, and macular degeneration with severe vision loss. Now that he had a tag, he was concerned about his ability to actually pursue his dream - spending time on high mountain peaks and ridges in pursuit of a bighorn. But, no worries. They had made friends with Fritz and Connie Meyer, along with their son-in-law Pat Poppe, his wife Kelly and their son Justin. Yes sir, we all know this family knows a little about sheep hunting and they were all chomping at the bit to lend a hand.

Celeste writes: It was a beautiful September morning and we headed out to the Moon Lake area where we had spotted a ram on an earlier trip. Through the crisp morning air we saw a herd of elk on the skyline and a cow moose nosing around where we set up to glass Union Peak.

Around 11:00 a.m., Pat spotted some rams on a cliff edge of Union Peak and there was some discussion about the time it would take to get back around and above them. Jim said "We're here, we see some so let's go after them."

We hopped in the ATV and two hours later we were on the other side of the mountain with Pat leading and carrying Jim's rifle. Justin helped Jim over the rocky terrain while Kelly and I brought up the rear. We hiked our way to the cliff edge where we hoped the rams would still be. Sure enough there were 7 rams on a ledge 100 yards below us. Pat got Jim into position. He picked out the biggest one and made the shot. Now the question was how do we get to it safely? Pat and Kelly thought they could slide their way down a crack while we



They were so passionate about the outdoors and hunting that they decided to relocate where wildlife would be out their back door. Yep, Wyoming was it, and they selected the friendly little community of

waited nervously on top. They made the decent, waved back to us and field dressed the ram and made their way on down while we hiked back to the ATV.

It took us three hours to get back around and meet up with Pat and Kelly and head for their house. Fritz, Connie and a group of friends gathered later that day at the Meyers's with beer and sheep oysters in celebration of Jim's successful hunt.

Celeste was beside her best friend, husband and hunting partner when he got to fulfill his dream. They got to share his dream hunt and those ever precious memories together. That was Jim's last hunt, but while his health continued to fail, he insisted Celeste continue applying for her sheep tag.

In early May, 2017, after 20 "unsuccessful" notices, Celeste received word - "successful" area 10! They were ecstatic, but Jim was now in the worst of health. He knew he would not be physically by his best friend's side during her dream hunt. That's when he looked into her worried eyes and said, "Pat will find you one." Jim left us on May 22, 2017. Celeste would have to pursue her dream hunt without her life-long

hunting partner. Bitter sweet.

Celeste writes: Starting on the spectacular weekend of the total solar eclipse, my daughter Lana (from Kansas), grandson Steele, Pat and Kelly took me out hunting. We had a great time together watching 3 younger rams playing on an ice field and enjoyed seeing the wild flowers and several varieties of wild mushrooms.

I hunted on the weekends with Pat and Kelly in the high country where we camped and hiked. We saw elk, deer, moose and even a sow grizzly with 2 cubs one morning.

During the week, I would go alone out to the 3 lakes area and sit in my truck and glass the hills and rocks. It was therapeutic for me to be in nature during my grief.

On the afternoon of Sept. 20th, Fritz went with me out to Torrey Rim to hunt and while we were there we got a call from Pat telling us that someone had reported seeing a ram below us, so we headed down that way. My heart was pounding when we spotted 4 ewes and 4 rams grazing.

I think the stars were aligned and Jim was looking out for me. I made a stalk and shot my ram. Jim was right, Pat did "find me one" and

Fritz put me on him. I'll be forever grateful to the many friends who were on the lookout for a ram for me.

Jim and I always felt privileged to be able to live in Dubois and to enjoy all of nature whether hiking, fishing, hunting or just enjoy simply viewing the abundant wildlife.

Celeste spent 23 days on her dream hunt. About 12 of those days she hunted alone. She said hunting alone gave her a deeper connection with the great magnitude of the outdoors and its animals. Equally important, it allowed her to reconnect with Jim in special ways. While glassing for sheep, she could see visions of Jim and her on majestic mountain peaks and ridges, surrounded by blue skies, white puffy clouds, lush green meadows and wild sheep.

Celeste will be with us at the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation annual event in Casper. Jim and she have donated a unique Colt 44 black powder pistol to raise funds for putting and keeping KIDS and SHEEP on the mountain. The date will be June 2 - Jim's birthday. So, let's celebrate! Bitter sweet.



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



Adam Wickes Public Land



LM Scott Buckingham and
his WYO HA3 Mtn. Goat



LM Cody Brown with his WYO Wolf

LM Ryan Amundson's
WYO HA 1 Mtn. Goat



Member's Gallery

Sara Domek's Cow Elk



LM Dale Sims BC Grizzly taken
with Wicked River Outfitters.



LM John Harris with his Blacktail Buck



Justin Phillips 2018 Cody Area Buck

BLAST FROM THE PAST

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



LM William Trapp with a WYO bison taken in the Upper Green river



LM Ray Lozier and his Wicked River Outfitters BC Moose



Conservation Fund Founder Gary Butler Selected for the Wyoming Outdoor Hall of Fame

The caliber and fabric of folks that have a passion for wildlife conservation in Wyoming, especially wild sheep, is simply astonishing

One way The Wyoming Game and Fish Department recognizes those that have made exemplary contributions to our wildlife is through the Wyoming Outdoor Hall of Fame.

In 2015, we were thrilled to have WY-WSF Past President and Life Member Jerry Galles, inducted into the Wy Outdoor Hall of Fame. This year we are equally elated to have Life Member,

Gary Butler, founder of our Conservation Fund, inducted.

Gary grew up in northeast Wyoming then served in the Army, after which he acquired Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Wildlife and Range Management at UW. After some temporary work positions with the WGFD he landed at Whiskey Basin near Dubois, a bighorn sheep mecca.

A passion for wild sheep was born, and it's never stopped growing.

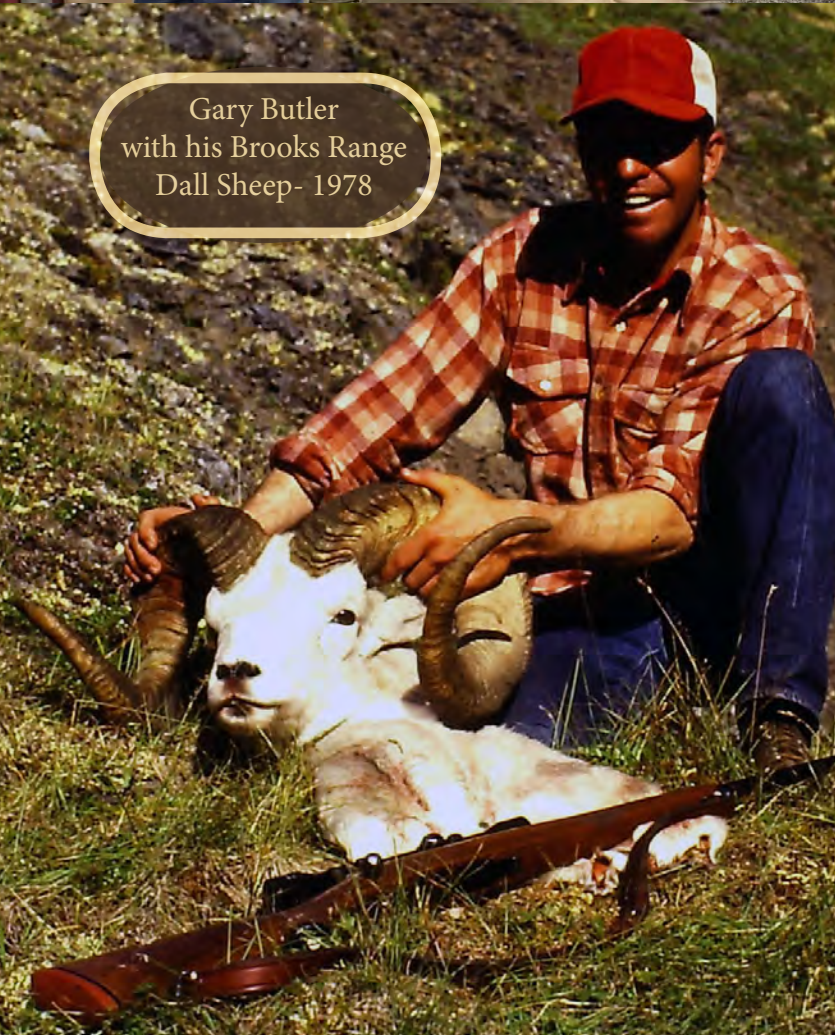
Gary and his family spent 13 years living with the Whiskey Basin sheep and then they moved to Cheyenne where he assumed the statewide supervisor position for Terrestrial Habitat. There he initiated and led a cadre of biologists engaged in implementing thousands of acres of habitat improvements. His habitat program was the envy of surrounding western states.

Gary is not only a student of the land and wildlife, he is a student of us, people. He has always been quick to learn our skill sets, philosophies and potentials. Then as a "quiet giant" coach, he builds Super Bowl winning teams to accomplish tasks and goals. He is always willing to try new ideas, give credit to others for success, take all the heat if something fails and build trust.

Moreover, Gary is visionary - always an eye on the future. Thus, his establishment of the WY-WSF Conservation Fund, which will fund "putting and keeping KIDS and wild SHEEP on the mountain" forever.



Reno Sheep Show 2018!



Gary Butler
with his Brooks Range
Dall Sheep- 1978



This Ram has been
wintering on the North Fork of
the Shoshone.
Photo by LM Karen Lozier



Stone Sheep Aug 2017

We played a game growing up as kids called "I Spy." Only our game was about who could spot the 1st Dall Sheep, the biggest ram or the most sheep that day. The winner always received the biggest bowl of ice cream that night. I grew up near the base of the Chugach Mountain range in Alaska. If we were driving anywhere, this is how we would occupy our time.

Hunters and hunting have been a part of life since I can remember. I would fish all summer and in September I would help my mom at moose camp. I would help cook, bake and hang out with all my Dad's friends that were there hunting. They say it takes a village and these guys, were my village.

I can remember one cold February evening as a kid when my Dad pulled out some slides to look at. I thought, "how boring is this going to be..." surprisingly I found myself enthralled in the pictures and more captivated by the stories he told of hunting Dall Sheep in the Chugach Range and Wrangell Mountains of Alaska. The adventure sounded exciting, the steep mountains, the animals they ran into, the weather that holed them up in tents, soaking wet but still determined to harvest the sheep they were up there living with. I had always admired the

"I Spy"

By Kirstin Maestri

Dall sheep that hung in our family room, little did I know that my life was going to be full of wild sheep.

I lived in Reno for 15 yrs. I had hiked all over the Sierra Nevada, skiing the backcountry, conquered winter camping and truly enjoyed the outdoors. I have always been up for adventure and always been a mountain girl. I was dating a man I knew from college, he was living in Texas and I kept thinking to myself as things became more serious, "there is no way I can move to TX!"...No Offense TX. Little did I know that a couple of years later I would marry this man and move to Big Horn, WY. When we moved into our home there, we had 2 wild sheep on the wall, a Dall and a Stone. I enrolled our son at Big Horn Elementary School and plugged ourselves into sports and the community. Everywhere I looked there were Big Horn Sheep! Five of our neighbors were grand slam achievers. So the wife of a sheep hunter is what I had become and understanding the fever that comes with it.

I couldn't escape the passion, commitment to conservation, and excitement of these animals. My vows somehow included understanding cancellation hunts, training, acquiring gear, researching outfitters, praying for draw results, accumulating points, attending banquets with raffles and contributing NOT to 401k's but to the "sheep fund".

Over the next 4yrs, 4 more sheep would become part of our lives. A beauty of a Tiburon



My Father Walt Kephart 1969

Island Desert Sheep from a cancellation hunt that caught the attention of the Boone & Crockett Record book. Next would be an



Desert January 2018 Frank Maestri, Kirstin Maestri, Michael Maestri, Frankie

unexpected call from the great state of Montana. They informed us that all that praying had paid off for a tag in area 421 to go on a Rocky Mountain Big Horn hunt. This self guided hunt was quite the story. This ram currently sits on a pedestal mount in my dining room at 182 inches and was brought back to life by Hartman Taxidermy.

My interest in Wild Sheep was rising. I was surrounded by rams no matter where I turned. The stories from friends, neighbors and “the sheep community” were intriguing and enticing. I was getting a little infected by the tales of adventure just as I had when I heard the stories from my father. The next January at the Sheep Show in Reno my husband booked a Stone Sheep hunt with Fire Mountain Outfitters in B.C., our friends Brandon & Rena Ponath. The journey would be in Northern BC in a year and a half. I decided to go on the adventure this time as a non hunter. To our surprise, my husband received another tag from the state of Colorado. The praying was paying off and helping out our Sheep fund accumulation. This hunt area would be between 12,000-14,000 ft and so the training began. That fall, off he went off to CO for a try at another Rocky Mtn Big Horn Ram. The hunt was again successful.

July 29th arrived and I was headed to Whitehorse, where I would meet my husband who had been there for a week scouting around. The mountains were breathtaking. We spent the 1st day at the main camp, packing our gear and visiting with the guides. I awoke in the middle of the night extremely sick. This continued for 2 days and unfortunately I did not get to go on the hunt. Frank did however harvest a great Stone Sheep. I was determined to get up into Sheep Country even though the hunt was over. I accompanied them the next day to break down camp. We atv'd for several miles to the base



Northern BC near Atlin 2017

of the mountains. We crossed over a couple miles of high thick brush until we entered a draw that would take us to the top, where they had spiked out for awhile. We climbed our way across streams, rocky shale and large rocks. I took in every breath and realized part of why so many that try it, fall in love with sheep hunting. It was truly amazing to be in this part of the world. Ewes and lambs were balancing on rocky side slopes and mountain goats pawed out the side hill to bed down for the day. Mountain Caribou played in the meadows on top as we reached camp to break it all down. I was hooked on the scenery and the work to get there disappeared and was replaced with the view from the top.

When we came home I was thinking of all the gear I needed to get so I could possibly go on any future sheep hunts that came our direction.

My father in-law, who started all this fever in my husband years ago was planning a Desert Big Horn hunt to complete his 2nd grand slam in January 2018. Little did he know, we were coming with him. My husband left ahead of us to hunt with a friend at the same outfit and scout out for rams. The whole family loaded up, flew to Mexico and went sheep hunting in Coahuila, MX. Two full days of difficult up and down, prickly

thorns, sharp rocks, heat and excitement! A Ram was harvested and what a memorable trip for our entire family. Three generations, my son, my husband and his father all sheep hunting together! A big thanks to La Palmosa for putting up with all of us.

Two weeks later we find ourselves again at The Sheep Show. Only this time, it's my turn. I am booked with North Curl Outfitters, Mac Watson in the Yukon. I am beyond excited. I am taking my husband on the adventure. I have a year and half to fill up the “sheep fund” and get in “sheep shape”. I hope to “SPY” one of those majestic rams that used to be just part of a game for a kid from Alaska.



MT Big Horn 182"

The 16 Hour Ride!

By Zach McDermott

Back in the spring of 2015, I committed to my first sheep hunt. I decided to go with Dickson Outfitters in the Yukon Territory (thanks LM Tim Raver for the great recommendation). Since this was going to be my first sheep and Yukon experience, my dad decided to come along for the ride. We both trained

then came the driving rain. After about an hour and a half, the guide was ready to head back down. I convinced him to give it another 15 minutes and we lucked out. The fog lifted, and we headed up to the peak where we would have a great glassing vantage point of where we last saw the rams. As luck

were feeding and moved under a slight roll in the ridge and we couldn't see them. We back tracked on our climb to come more over the top of them. As we belly crawled into position, the rams kept moving. We lucked out and my ram fed going away from us to give us a much better shot. As he turned broadside, I



our butt off as we heard the terrain in the Yukon can be brutal. Well that is no joke! And we thought the Wind Rivers had some nasty turf..... Day 4 started out on the rough side. The initial climb into our area was brutal and this was our 4th day in a row of doing it. When we reached the main saddle, we were fogged in and

would have it, the rain moved in again, this time with sleet. After an hour we were able to move forward. We located the rams we had been looking for but with only one route to get to them. The terrain was so steep and rough it was everything just short of technical climbing with a harness. On our initial approach to the shooting spot, the rams

let one crack. Unfortunately, I misjudged the downward angle and shot over the top of him. As the rams danced around wondering what was going on, I was able to get a good body shot off and then finished him off with another upper shoulder/spine shot. By the time we were all loaded up and ready to head back to camp it was after

9:30pm and we had a real long treacherous trek back. On our hike out, we had a chance to turn our headlamps off and sit to watch the Northern Lights. Amazing show and what a great way to end the day. We arrived back to camp around 2:45am exhausted but still enough in the tank to have a celebratory toast of Jack Daniels. The next morning as we were trying to gather ourselves, a pack of wolves passed by our camp. In my crocs and camp clothes, I ran through the bogs to get a chance at a shot. My first shot was about 450 yds at the pack female and I missed. There was another one slightly closer and this time I didn't miss. Game over! As the rest of the pack hung around within 1000 yds, we were able to call 4 of them back in. This time we were set up much better and as soon as one presented themselves, I let em fly. The second wolf was 100 yds broadside. What an amazing 16 hours we had! And the memories are priceless. Dave and Dickson Outfitters have a long-standing history with outfitting in the Yukon Territory, over 100 years as a matter of fact. He runs a first-class operation to say the least. What has inspired me most about Dave is his vision and efforts for conservation not only for sheep but all wildlife. In a day of social media,



glorification and corporatization, Dave has stayed true to his roots. His number one objective is to do what is best for the health and population of the animals. During my hunt I was fortunate enough to be able to sit down with Dave one on one and have several conversations regarding his outlook and philosophies. One of his several efforts really hitting home with me was in 2007 when there was a major die off from a harsh winter. Dave rescheduled or canceled all his sheep hunts except for one to help the Dall's bounce back. He has taken the same approach on his moose hunt as well. For man like that, it's all about quality and not quantity. Another effort that really struck a chord with me was his involvement to help establish the Kluane game preserve and hunting seasons. He was part

of a committee to help set up the preserve and its function. Without the preserve, the game was destined for decimation. One aspect Dave stresses to his guides and hunters in harvesting a Ram is to consider the age and how it may affect them for generations. Several times I heard "leave the 6-8 yr. old rams alone!" It's refreshing to know we still have some like Dave out there. Thank you Dave and Teena Dickson for an amazing trip and the unforgettable memories. And thanks to Dad for hanging in there with me on my crazy trips!

“I got the shot”

By Sara Harris & Steve Kilpatrick

“Why is my phone ringing?” That’s what Sara Harris said to herself as she sat at the 2017 WY-WSF banquet in Casper. Well, it was because Kirstie Ennis, our guest speaker and wounded veteran hunter for 2018, was on stage in front of a crowd of 375 anxious folks, including Sara. Kirstie had just dialed the number of the lucky winner for the 2017 donated sheep tag. Hunting With Heroes, our wounded veteran sheep hunt program partner, had selected and given Sara’s phone number to Kirstie. Sara looked at her phone, then looked up and saw Kirstie staring at her. She started crying without even answering the phone.

From Sara: I joined the Marine Corps in 2007 and was medically retired in 2009. My time in service, like others, was unique and my reason for medical retirement was as well. Because of the short time I served,

I have the constant complex of, “I do not deserve anything”, and am even uncomfortable when people thank me for my service. It’s been almost 10 years after retirement and I am finally, maybe, able to accept a “thank you”.

Last June I was asked to attend the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation banquet and speak briefly on behalf of Hunting With Heroes. I was tricked! When Kirstie Ennis called the sheep tag recipient my phone rang. My first thought was, how awkward is it that my phone had to ring right now. People might think I was the lucky one. Stupid phone. It took a second to realize it actually was ME! I never in a million years expected to be given such an opportunity of a life time.

Almost exactly one year prior to this hunt I shattered my pelvis, my tailbone and the nerve complex in my left leg, and had to have massive kidney surgery. I didn’t think I was going to pull this off, but I wasn’t going to tell anyone

that, and damn I was going to at least try. Even if I had to roll myself home. I had to remind myself the reason Hunting With Heroes chose me was because they knew my year had royally sucked, so I had to try. But, for the sake of being perfectly candid, there were days when my mind beat my body. The toll of the accident, divorce and PTSD was overwhelming some days.

Shortly after the banquet I went to meet Gap Pucci, the sheep tag donor. When I say he is the most interesting man in the world, I mean it. His heart is huge, his stories are even bigger and never ending and his life has been like no other. For over 40 years, Gap outfitted and guided hunters in the wilds of the Jackson, Wyoming area. Moreover, he is a crazy (I mean that in a good way) Italian from Philadelphia who came west to raise his family. A jack-of-all-trades that would “...rather be guiding hunters and riding my Morgans than be president of an oil company or Governor of Wyoming.

“He is a little over 80, and lives by himself in a log cabin built in 1938. One can imagine the stories.

When Gap was approached to see if he wanted to donate his coveted sheep tag to a wounded veteran he thought long and hard. He already had a sheep of his own and he wanted to donate this tag to the Crises Pregnancy Center in Jackson, Wyoming. They could sell it and make a mint. All for a cause close to his heart. Well, the law doesn’t allow that type of transfer and sale. However, the law does allow one to donate



Sara Harris,
Wounded Vet
and Big Horn
Sheep License
Recipient

Gap Pucci,
Big Horn
Sheep License
Donor

the tag to a 50% or more disabled veteran. Gap chose that route, but God had spoken to him and it had to be a "Lady" veteran and from Wyoming. Period. Hunting With Heroes and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department made the tag transfer happen.

He told me over and over that I was the highlight of his year and while the hunt was the highlight of mine, none of it would have been if it wasn't for him and his love and faith, and compassion for women.

Ispent the weekend prior to the hunt with a stomach virus and wondered how in the world it was going to happen. Things cleared up and I headed for Jackson to meet up with Steve Kilpatrick and Larry McDermott from the Wy Wild Sheep Foundation. They rounded up some mules and we spent the first day riding east of the National Elk Refuge. No sheep. Oh, did I mention I was terrified of all things horse/mule? Steve and Larry are patient men!

The second day we took the mules and drove up the Gros Ventre River drainage. We stopped and began scoping the red, gray, and lavender hills. I informed Steve that I could see 5 bumps that looked like "potatoes" on the side of mountain. Forgot to mention that I had never seen a bighorn sheep outside of a photo before! He confirmed that they were in fact bighorn sheep and not gigantic starchy vegetables. He also informed me they had representative horn size, but not huge. I wanted to go for it. No place for greed at this point.

Steve and Larry saddled the mules while I was instructed to wander around the trailer and "dry fire" the rifle from every imaginable position. That I did - maybe 100 times!

Iclimbed on and we proceeded to take a route through the trees and up "behind" the sheep. We went up a very slippery side hill where I got off and started hiking. As I hiked, I knew I could not do this for another 2 weeks! My

uphill-in-the-mud muscles had disappeared after my accident.

We got above the cliff band where we had last seen the sheep and peeked over. Gone. But there were fresh ram tracks and smelly urine and poop. The area above the length of the cliff band was searched. No sheep. As Steve and I were stalking the area above the cliff band, I wondered where our hunting partner Larry McDermott had gone. Oh, there he is, and he is waiving at me for dumb reason? Guess I will go see what's up.

He had peaked over the cliff band and the rams were loafing 125 yards below him. Found um. We waited for Steve, who was monkeying around somewhere out of sight. He finally appeared and we motioned him our way. He peeked over and let me know there were now 7 rams vs the 5 we saw earlier. And, there was one nice one!

Imanaged to get myself in the prone position with the crosshairs perfectly on the ram while he was lying down. Steve coached me to relax, breath and had me pull and release the trigger for trial runs. He said we would wait until the ram stood up. Then a ram next to mine quickly jumped to its feet, as though startled. Steve said, "Get ready!" Nothing. My ram remains lying down. Steve said, "Ok, let's chill out and wait until he stands". I snapped at him, "I got the shot!" I guess he knew I meant business and said "OK then!" After pulling the trigger, I looked away, awaiting confirmation. The only thing he did, was drop his head. I wasn't lying when I snapped "I got the shot."

We deboned and caped the magnificent ram. By the time we packed the head and meat in our packs and started the climb up and out, it was dark. The footing was bad, the loads were heavy and after an hour or so we stashed the ram in a snowbank.

We finished hiking up and then down to the mules which were tucked in the trees. I experienced my first starlit midnight mule ride in the expanses of the Gros Ventre drainage as we made our way back to the truck and trailer. Larry, Steve and I returned the next day for a sunny warm relaxing mule ride along the banks and cliffs of the Gros Ventre River to retrieve my ram. I was like a huge sponge, soaking up sights, smells and sounds that will be with me forever.

Somehow, the stars aligned for me starting last June. The Wild Sheep Foundation, Hunting With Heroes, Gap Pucci, Dan Currah, Larry McDermott, Steve Kilpatrick and all the other people who helped me, YOU made this happen. The whole experience, including riding mules under the Gros Ventre stars, it has changed me. A change I can't explain, one I don't fully understand and still feel very overwhelmed with. But, it was an experience of a lifetime and one I'm not sure I'll ever be able to articulate.

I'm so thankful and grateful for everyone involved in this hunt. Its many months later, and I still search for the words. If I ever find them, I'm sure you all will be begging me to hush. But, life has changed for me and I've realized that I have changes I need to make in order to make the most of this life I was given, a life that was almost taken from me a year prior to this hunt. And, I climbed a freaking mountain! It was little, literally and figuratively, in comparison to the mountains in life, but it all came in the nick of time.

The Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation and Hunting with Heroes helped save me, and no one will ever know how broken I had been prior. For that reason, I will do everything I can to continue supporting these amazing animals and the organizations above.

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1

Youth Photo Captions

1. Jenny, Josh & Jax Taylor with Jenny's Lion.
2. Lash & Zuzu Dominick
3. Bridger with LM Aunt Joni Miller



2



3

“MEMORIES OF A SHEEP HUNTER”

BY LM CARI GOSS

My memories of sheep hunting are of long days, difficult hikes, great horses, beautiful mountains, great camps full of the best people you could ever meet. Sheep hunting will challenge you with bad weather, difficult terrain, sore muscles, blistered feet, occasional hunger and more all in search of mountain sheep.

I have been blessed to complete my grand slam of sheep and currently I am half way to completing my second grand slam after being diagnosed with Crohn's disease and a life threatening surgery. Nothing in my life has been as exhilarating as sheep hunting alongside my husband Leo.

My memories of the Yukon are of traveling through snow covered mountains on a horse named Hippy. My first dall sheep hunt in the Yukon was a test of sheep hunter versus weather. It snowed for the first five days putting heavy snow fall in the mountains. Travel in the mountains was difficult at best, spotting dall sheep in the deep snow was even worse. In the last hours of the last day I was able to harvest a ram, concluding a great hunt on a great horse with wonderful friends.

My memories of sheep hunting include a seventeen day stone sheep hunt in Northern British Columbia covering miles and miles of mountain trails on foot and horseback in search of stone sheep. My horse for this hunt was a roan appropriately named Blue. After days of glassing we located rams many miles in the distance and made a plan to go after them the next morning. A three hour horseback ride followed by four hours of extreme hiking and we

located the rams. I was able to stalk within 350 yards of the bedded rams where I put my 6.5 x 284 to work. I had just harvested what would later be determined to be a record book stone sheep. After all the caping we began the long hike back to our horses. It was dark when we arrived at the horses and I was happy to see my friend Blue. When we arrived back at camp several hours after midnight it had been one of the longest, yet best days of my life.

My memories of sheep hunting are of long days hiking mountains in search of a Bighorn ram to complete by slam. We spent many days hiking and looking at different rams in search of the “one”. Everyday we would see rams but we were looking for a great ram to complete my slam. We had climbed to the top of a plateau and looked at a ram that received the “almost”, we continued hiking for a hour and glassed a mountainside that produced the ram we were looking for. He was on the move and about to go over the top, however I was able to make the long 580 yard shot and put my grand slam ram on the ground. Emotions overwhelmed me as I realized I had just accomplished a goal I first dreamed of 20 years earlier.

My memories of sheep hunting are of hunting rams in the desert of Old Mexico. First day rams and last day rams. My first desert hunt was a ten day hunt full of days spent hiking and glassing for a desert ram. On my tenth and final day I hiked for two hours into the mountains in search of sheep. It was late afternoon when we located some rams miles away.

I hiked as hard as I could for two hours to close the distance. On a mountain top shortly before dark I harvested my first desert ram on the last day of my hunt as darkness overcame the beautiful Sonora desert.

My memories of sheep hunting include my second desert ram we found on a steep mountainside. Watching this magnificent ram feeding on the mountainside is a memory that will be with me forever. After patiently watching the ram for many hours we were able to put a successful stalk on the ram completing a great day of sheep hunting.

I'm so grateful for all the awesome memories created by sheep hunting. They will live on with me forever.

Photo Captions:

- 1- BC-Stone
- 2-Old Mexico-Desert
- 3-Utah-Bighorn
- 4-Yukon-Dall's





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