

Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation Spring 2020

“PUTTING KIDS AND WILD
SHEEP ON THE MOUNTAIN”
PAGE 53

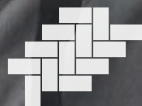
The
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Contact us at:

info@wyomingwildsheep.org
Or by phone: (307)413-7249

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
www.wyomingwildsheep.org

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Address Changes

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

Please send address changes to: info@wyomingwildsheep.org or by phone at (307) 413-7249

Advertising Rates

Full-Page \$500
1/2-Page \$300
1/4-Page \$140
1/8-Page \$100

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

2019-2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 5-6, 2020
Annual Convention
Casper, WY

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

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

Dec 4-5, 2020
Winter Meeting
Laramie, WY

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

Wyoming WSF would like to thank, and recognize, Life Members who have signed up since the Fall 2019 RamPage was published. A complete listing of WY-WSF Life Members is available for viewing on the WY-WSF web page, under the "Life Members" tab:

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

If you would be interested in signing up or upgrading to Life Member status with WY-WSF, please visit our store or membership pages on the website. A \$750 payment or recurring payments of your choice, invests in Wyoming's bighorns, plus gets you or someone you know a high-quality wall plaque and name tag. We thank all of our past, current, and future Life Members!!

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

Blast from the Past - Kurt Eisenach

Membership Renewal

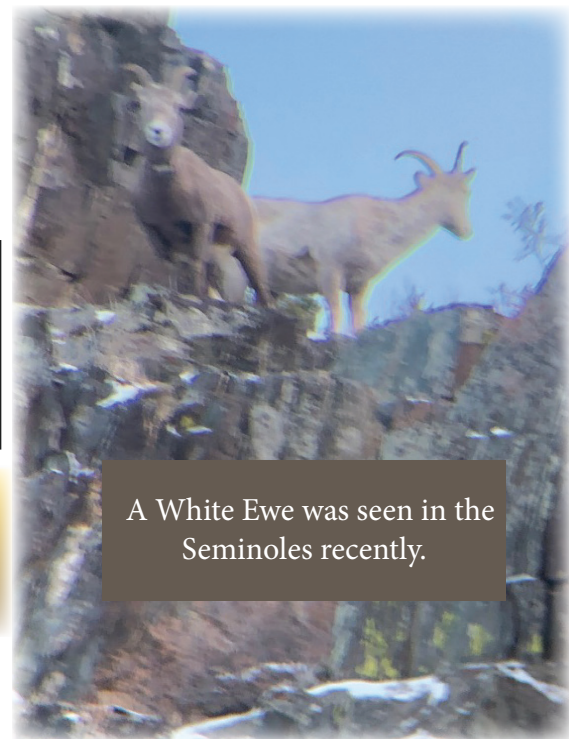
Your renewal date is listed on your poly bag's mailing label right above your name. If your membership is expired, or will expire before the next issue, renew today at:

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

Sheep Heads Wanted!

We will have our should mount taxidermy display erected once more at this year's banquet. If you would like to bring one of your taxidermy works for display. Please contact Steve Kilpatrick at (307) 413-7249 and we will save space for you.

- 586 Chris Galloway
- 587 Kim Lutz
- 588 Rob Englot
- 589 Cory Higgins
- 590 Jeff Schweighart
- 591 David Staub
- 592 Bruce Perryman



A White Ewe was seen in the Seminoles recently.

Effective July 1, 2020 the following changes will be made to our annual and life member dues structure:

Annual- \$40

Three Year Annual-\$100

Life Member-\$750

Life Member Over 65-\$500

Ramshorn Society Life Member-\$1250.

Current Life Members may upgrade for \$500 until July 1, 2020.

Ramshorn Society Life Members will receive two chances in the annual life member incentive drawing that is held during the annual life member breakfast.

Purchase your Life Membership or upgrade to Ramshorn Society today and save!

We regret that is necessary to increase the costs of joining the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation as well as the costs of advertising in the RamPage. The increases are needed to ensure that our dues and advertising pay their own expenses and are the first raises to our rates in over 5 years.

Effective July 1, 2020 the following changes will be made to our RamPage advertising prices:

Full-Page \$500

1/2-Page \$250

1/4-Page \$140

1/8-Page \$100

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

Barto Antler Knives

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

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Allotment Buyouts, The Wyoming Plan and a Changing Landscape

BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR STEVE KILPATRICK

We all know that if there is something we can count on over time, its “change”. Bighorn sheep numbers changed dramatically from the mid to late 1800’s when early explorers commented on “flocks” of bighorns too numerous to count in Wyoming: 1835 - July 11 - Russell observed “thousands” of mountain sheep in the vicinity of Togwotee Pass; 1842 - July 30 - Fremont sees numerous “herds” of mountain sheep on the North Platte River; An estimated 1.5 – 2 million wild sheep roamed the western US. Thus, one could easily imagine 10s of thousands in Wyoming. Maybe, even 100,000 or more.

Well, that number has “changed” to only 5,000 – 5,500 today – a 95% reduction. And, that’s after millions of your conservation dollars expended.

Wild sheep numbers weren’t the only “change”. Domestic sheep numbers changed also. In 1908, Wyoming led the nation in wool production with over six million domestic sheep valued at \$32 million. Wool topped beef, even in value. By 1997, numbers had dropped to about 750,000 domestic sheep. Fast forward to 2017, and there were only about 350,000 domestic sheep across Wyoming – a 53% reduction over a 10-year timespan.

Both, wild and domestic sheep advocates were chomping at the bit to maintain and/or increase numbers. But, recent science had shed light on a significant hurdle. Domestic sheep commonly carry pneumonia related pathogens which are easily transmitted to wild sheep, primarily through direct contact, resulting catastrophic all-age die offs. Domestic sheep are mostly unaffected by these pathogens. All sound and scientifically accepted science, but with new research findings occurring almost daily.

Opposing goals – a recipe

for a train wreck.

Help was on the way. Then Governor Geringer and the late Senator Craig Thomas directed wild and domestic sheep advocates to form the Wyoming State-wide Bighorn/Domestic Sheep Interaction Working Group. Over 50 stakeholders met for 4 years and completed a Final Report and Recommendations, September 2004 (the Wy Plan).

The Interactive Working Group has met annually since 2004. The stakeholders agreed that separation of the two species is key. Thus, one of the outcomes was a general understanding that domestic sheep producers grazing on Forest Service and BLM allotments located within core native bighorn herds could accept an economic incentive to waive their permit back to the federal management agency without preference for a replacement grazing permittee. Core native herds include - Targhee herd; entire Absaroka Range (five herds); Whiskey Basin herd; Jackson herd. Public lands grazing permits have economic value and are frequently sold and purchased among producers. To summarize, the grazing permittee returns a grazing permit to the FS/BLM, WY-WSF and/or other organizations provide economic compensation to the permittee and the FS changes future grazing management. Examples of “changes” include: 1) closure (no future grazing); 2) change from domestic sheep to cattle grazing – i.e. minimize lethal pathogen transmission; 3) forage reserve – used periodically based on ecological health thresholds; 4) vacancy – not grazed until after a suitability analysis. The above three-way transaction (permittee, funder, FS/BLM) MUST be done “willingly”. Moreover, WY-WSF has refused to bid, or compete against, other producers desiring to acquire the “sellers” grazing permits.

The economic incentives were of

fair market value, even though other producers were not interested in the allotments. The philosophy was/is to work “with” the agriculture community by providing the permittee with financial resources to reinvest in a changed business portfolio.

Since the late 1990’s, the WY-WSF has been a lead collaborator and fund raiser, partnering with 12 domestic sheep producers and the Forest Service to discontinue domestic sheep grazing within all 8 core native herd units. The vast majority of those producers have remained within the agriculture production world, but with a changed portfolio. A couple of the producers may have retired.

The WY-WSF and its collaborators realize the importance of agriculture to Wyoming – wildlife habitat, commerce, culture, values, etc. We sincerely feel we are consistent with the direction given by former Governor Geringer and the late Senator Craig Thomas which is provided in the Wy Plan.

WY-WSF, with the help of many other funders, provided these 12 producers with approximately \$2.3M to continue business within the agriculture arena. While the domestic the sheep industry has lost approximately 400,000 sheep (53% reduction since 1997) on Wyoming’s landscape, allotment adjustments account for only 2-4% of that loss while providing producers with investment options they did not previously have.

We can certainly relate to the sheep producers’ losses since wild sheep advocates have lost approximately 95% of our wild sheep since the mid-late 1800’s.

Bottom line – Change is inescapable.

Let’s continue partnering with ever changing strategies focused on benefiting both species.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY KURT EISENACH

If you were a part of the large turnout for our winter event in Sheridan, I thank you for being active and participating in the business of the chapter. We had a wonderful time with great tours and seminars. The evening brought a visit from Governor Gordon and his wonderful wife Jennie. His interest in our efforts and short talk was a thrill for those in attendance. We had a spirited membership meeting fulfilling the wishes of the membership for the handling of the Life Member investment account into the future. You can see those details on the web page.

The other important business was your chapter's efforts and response to the risks posed by the Owl Creek domestic sheep herd. One individual is risking a disease outbreak at the southern end of sheep area 5. This has the potential to be devastating to the entire core native herd in Wyoming. We are currently trying to work through the AG department of the state of Wyoming to facilitate a mediated solution for this dangerous situation. We will continue to update you on the success of these efforts.

On another challenging front, we are in the process of defining, and then searching for a replacement for our exceptional Executive Director, Steve Kilpatrick. After several years of outstanding part time, [LOL], service to this chapter, Steve would

like to slow down and try the retirement thing. The partnerships and collaborative solution processes he has helped us lead, have been real progress for this chapter. Steve has agreed to hang on as we search for the right replacement to tackle some tremendous issues in the future. His expertise and experience working in this state will be missed but never far away.

On top of that, the long-time man behind the scenes and banquet master, Dean DiJenno is going to step back and sit at a table during our next banquet. He is working as hard as ever to help us find ways to fill his enormous shoes. It is long past time for Dean and Diane to check out retirement!

We are looking for help from the membership to fill some very important tasks. I would ask all of you to look at your skill set and available time. See if you could be part of the solution, and fill some of the tasks. We need assistance in the following areas: Web page posting and upkeep, Membership record keeping, Run the chapter calendar that keeps us on track and on time through email reminders and conference call notices, design/print various announcements and posters for raffles, banquets and email blasts. The list goes on but as you can see, skills that you possess could be a big boost to the running of our chapter. One person would not need to take on the entire load or have expertise in all these areas. If the workload was divided, a few hours a week is all it would take for

someone with the right skills. Please examine how you could directly assist this organization. Those that step up will make a difference. The future of this chapter is being planned and the groundwork is being laid right now.

If you can help, there is no better time to get your feet wet! Contact Joni Miller, Zach McDermott or myself with any ideas on how you might be able to help.

And now onto some fun stuff. In the last message I mentioned a bull moose story. Well, in this issue of your Rampage is my short rendition of a great trip. It would take several evenings and a few drinks to get to all the details. Enjoy the story along with all the other great articles in this fantastic membership driven magazine.

We have a great lineup and some fun trips to bid on during the Casper event. Make your reservations early and bring your kids to the event; bring a couple of your hunting buddies as well. Introduce a friend to your sheep family and help us

PUT AND KEEP KIDS AND WILD SHEEP ON THE MOUNTAINS.



Steve



Kurt



“At this point, I felt as though I was in a dream and at any point I would wake up and none of it would be real. To share a fire with three of the best people I know, on a mountain covered in elk and snow, made all the problems of the world vanish like smoke from the fire. As I sat there, I reflected on the philosophy of the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation and the importance of putting kids in the mountains so they can know what peace truly feels like in an ever-changing world.” Miles Fortner LM #543

I would like to visit the Conservation Fund [CF] operating agreement to make you aware of a few things. It was originally developed to address the following:

- 1] Bighorn sheep transplants.
- 2] Habitat priorities in Wyoming.
- 3] Youth development.
- 4] Research development.

Conservation Fund Total = \$296,599
 Change in Value 2019= \$ 41,599
 GIAs funded = \$18,500
 Life Memberships Awarded = 6

Conservation Fund Update

BY SCOTT BUTLER

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department and the WY WSF work together all year long on topics 1 and 2. With some habitat work being funded from the CF.

Topic 3 ‘Youth Development’ has been awarding 2 youth life memberships to the WY WSF yearly for the past 3 years with a total of 6 proud new life members! 2017: Giuliana McDermott and Kolby George, 2018: Brodie Fackler and Addison Youmans, 2019: Frank Maestri III and Archer Seitz. This will continue for youth under the age of 14 attending the June banquet. Parents please bring your children and include them in our future.

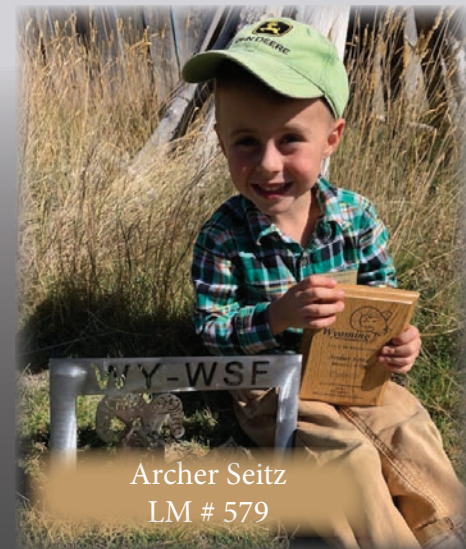
We will be making an addendum to agreement to be able to add future youth development opportunities.

In 2019 we sponsored 2 youth to attend Camp Bighorn and to assist

the National Bighorn Sheep Center with funding the camp. We look forward to helping in the future. The board also approved a \$5,000 grant, from the CF, to the National Bighorn Sheep Center to support their education and outreach program for 2020.

Research development can ‘Provide financial assistance [scholarship/grant] to graduate student[s] working directly to benefit bighorn sheep in Wyoming.’

The CF also provides an opportunity for folks to memorialize a loved ones passion for wild places and wild sheep. Emphasis will be placed on memorial donations. A memorial donation has been made in the name of Al Benton LM#130. A memorial donation has also been made in the name of Bill and Lorrain Rudd.



Archer Seitz
LM # 579

KEEPING KIDS AND WILD SHEEP ON THE MOUNTAIN!

JOIN THE FOUNDATION'S RAMSHORN SOCIETY OF LIFE MEMBERSHIP!

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

It is time for immediate action!

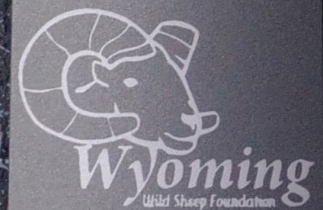
Our chapter has created a new level of life membership called the Ramshorn Society. Donations to the Ramshorn Society will be used to immediately fund grant in aid projects designed to stop this downward spiral with our Wyoming Bighorns.

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

Current Life members who upgrade to the Ramshorn Society prior to July 1, 2020 will be charged \$500. New members can enroll in the Ramshorn Society for \$1000.

Due to the generosity of Weatherby Firearms, Inc, the chapter is offering a chance to win a very special Weatherby Weathermark in 6.5 WBY RPM with one of a kind WY-WSF engraving to all who sign up and pay for Ramshorn Society Life Membership by 8 AM on Saturday, June 6, 2020. You do not need to be present to win the Weatherby drawing.

Please donate today by clicking on our website at: www.wyomingwildsheep.org/store or call Dean DiJenno at (307) 213-0998. Recurring payment options are available for this membership.



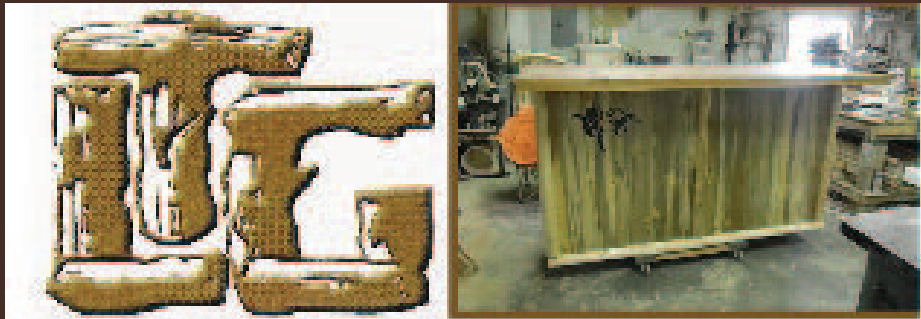
RAMSHORN SOCIETY
2020



2019 FULL CURL TABLE PURCHASERS

Businesses and individuals listed on the opposite page (if logos were available) made significant investments for Wyoming's bighorn sheep by purchasing a "full curl" table for 8 attendees at our June 1, 2019 banquet in Casper.

We thank them for their support, and invite others who might be interested in a full curl table for our 2020 fundraising banquet to please contact President Kurt Eisenach, Executive Director Steve Kilpatrick, or any WY-WSF board member. We appreciate your outstanding support, and look forward to another great banquet/fund raiser in 2020



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



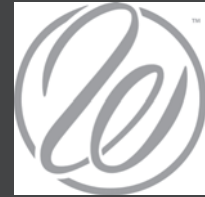
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“Perserverance, A Bighorn on the Bighorn”

By Jeff Schweighart

The first opportunity at a Wyoming Big Horn Sheep came for in 1984 and after 46 days of hunting, resulted in no harvest. There was one chance with during the archery season in spotting a good ram at 8:30 a.m..., a shot off mark at 4:30 pm and getting back to camp at 2:00 am in the morning. No shots fired during the rifle season, the only ram I had taken interest in was a ram with a beautiful colored hide, that we spent the day in a cave, napping and dropping a horn in the dirt from time to time but the problem was it was a day prior to the opener rifle season, never saw that ram again. 2016 came with one of my best friend's drawing the random tag in area 12, the draw odds were one in 464. Pre-scouting trips revealed some promising prospects, with the annual rumors of a slammer here or there. On August 5th of that year a neighbor of mine had success on the new state record which was officially scored at 186 class range. In September my friend harvested his ram out of a band of 16 rams to connect with his first experience on sheep hunting. I had patiently and faithfully applied for this Devil Canyon area, since it was opened originally. Having max points of 23, the draw had finally shined upon my chance. To sweeten the pot, once harvested it would complete my life-long goals of acquiring the FNAWS and Grand Slam achievement. June 16, 2019 was a special day as it was the first real day to pre-scout, prior to the upcoming season. That all abruptly ended by an ATV crash in Devil Canyon, thankfully my friend that had drawn the tag earlier in 2016 was there with me that day. It was 14 miles piggy back on his ATV to meet the ambulance. After doctor review, it called for a life flight to the Billings Clinic. Even at a trauma event in the emergency room prior to departure. My friend requests from the Life Flight crew, “Hey can you guys swing the plane a little low on the way up to Billings and look for



sheep? Cuz that was what we were doing when this all happened!” The whole emergency room was set in laughter, that would be my friend. Ten days later was facial and an orbital floor reconstruction surgery, yielding me to sport 4 new plates, a screw, new sinus and my eye reset upon a 5 mm structure. There was no to very minimal pain for five weeks due to the entire left side of my face was numb. The thing that I felt bad about was the images I had put through my friend through in helping me off the mountain, very thankful I had him there with me that day of the crash. With permission from the wife, me and the hound went up the mountain to see how my vertigo handled the bumpy roads, elevation and my general health status still for the fall of 2018 in mind. Got to a favorite point, settled in for a high country nap and the hound is pacing. I thought she seldom does this what is she watching? I turn around and a legal ram is walking in front of the vehicle at maybe 25 yards. I was like wow, second wind

seeing that we traced the rim of the canyon for more rams. That resulted in only getting up a larger rattlesnake with ten rattles and a button at 7200 feet, no buzz or warning, just on the strike at close quarters, not far from the forest boundary. At the end of 5 weeks the numbness wore off and reality was I was not even to 70-80 percent, not one to give up but not too much pride to make the right decision await another year. With surgeon and eye specialist assistance, I requested a carry over license for the 2019 season. 2019 brought about some enhancements in job opportunity across Wyoming, which equals less pre-scouting opportunity yet did still get enough outdoor time to prepare some. Time seemed to fast forward and archery starts first of August, with high 90s for day time highs, did get some heat sickness one day, it took about 4 days to get back to normal on that account. August 15 the rifle opener, revealed several nice rams, just seemingly younger rams needing a few more years. About day four,

met with another larger rattlesnake, even more aggressive than last year, another 10 rattles and a button. One particular night 5 rams with the best two rams yet, fed within 200 yards of our look out and hung there for 2 hours. Glassing across the canyon, nearly a mile revealed 3 dominant rams and the two larger even head butting this early, nearly a mile or better away, it was interesting to watch the head butting in the scope, with the acoustic sound of travel so long to get to us. Watched that same dominate ram for four days in a row, ranged him at 1860 yards, he maybe moved 200 yards the entire time. An attempt of a stalk was tried, with ever changing winds, the sneak was a failure but hey, we could still hunt and take those lessons learned on the next adventure. Our break was from an incoming front in later September, bringing many of the high elevation rams out of the steeper canyon areas on to the flatter, grass and sage covered slopes toward the foot of the mountain. This was a pleasant surprise in seeing newer rams we had not prior seen. The weather was not so cooperative, mist to a drizzle all night long, periods of low hanging fog, await warm sun to

burn off and see a bit farther. One ram started gaining interest, kept his mass, wide curl and I am on hunt day 27, we left the ram earlier that morning bedded with 6 others with a plan to make a wide sweep on rockier terrain, look over other bands of rams to see if any other new perspectives might have showed up with this front. Nearing 3:30 pm the stalk is on, we kind of get down level with the few scattered trees available to try and break up our outlines. We are to the ridge they had bedded, some still not visible. One friend states, they are out on top, then they start stalking our way to see what is going on. Everyone is taller than I am, so I hear he is clear to the left, it seemed I had to await longer than it actually is, the ram broke in front of all the others at a pretty good gate, as soon as he cleared the others it was just off hand at 80 yards with a solid hit. Later finding out it was directly a heart shot and he ran twice as far as the shot was made. We found the ram over the top in some sage, in pulling his horns from the brush it was like ground gain, like a foot or 12 inches bigger than I had thought he would go on field judging, still not knowing what the bases were. The size of the body

and the fat the ram had built up was amazing itself. This area can produce mature rams with 14 or up to 16 inches bases. Both my helpers this day were over their 60s and they were quite determined to load this one whole, it was a feat but accomplished. They had brought rappelling rope for a canyon ram, I thank god we did not have to utilize that equipment on this one. One unique event was a day we found 53 ewes and lambs with a half curl using a site above some guzzlers that were put in 2018. With genetics from Washington, Idaho, Montana and Whiskey Mountain it is producing some phenomenal rams to view. Credit is due to actions taken in great stewardship by the landowner, WGFD and many volunteers that have contributed to this unique herd of Devil Canyon. The other note of making this so sweet was completing the FNAWS/Grand Slam right here at home in Wyoming. It takes patience, perseverance, a lot of time and hard work but all well worth it in the end, very grateful for the opportunity to fulfill a life long dream.



Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation Raffle!

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

Only 600 tickets sold at \$100 each

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

**TO PURCHASE TICKETS VISIT:
www.wyomingwildsheep.org**



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Shane Adams

DIY

2019 WYO

Here's my ram. This hunt literally ranks as one of the most memorable in my life. I worked my butt off fighting the snow but it made it that much more sweet. Those darn buggers don't mind snow. They went up after the storm up on the wind swept slopes above tree line.

I'm very pleased with my ram and adventure. It'll be cherished for my lifetime. All the way from the day I learned I drew the tag to all the research/planning to the hunt. Everyone I spoke to during my research was very friendly. The people I ran into during the hunt such as other hunters, forest service and the game warden where all very friendly and helpful. During the check in at the Cody Game & Fish the people where awesome. The hunt itself was epic. I had the unit 22 tag which as you know, can hunt unit 5 during October. I went DIY, just myself and my father, in unit 5 during October in the non wilderness stuff in the Wood river country. The day I killed my ram, I left for the stalk at 800 am and didn't get back till 330 am. It was the longest day I can remember ever on a stalk from start to finish and included a long hard climb. Then I sat for 2 hours waiting for a shot. Then the pack out was mostly in the dark and included hitting many faces and ledges. In spots we'd pitch the quarters off the face. Pick our way down to retrieve them. Other spots we used ropes to lower our packs down to each other. We wanted to either come back the next day to pack out the stuff or find a good spot for the night and build a fire and wait for day light. But another storm was brewing and the forecast was for another foot of snow for the next day. So we decided to get the pack out done while the weather was good. It was great. Had a blast.



“My 2019 Sheep Safari”

By Freddie Goetz

Before I start the article on my 2019 Sheep Safari, I need to talk about a magazine that has come a long way and I do believe is like fine wine, it gets better with age. I am talking about the RamPage. I subscribe to six magazines and I read each of them from cover to cover. Our Rampage is one of the finest magazines on the market today.

By the time you read this article we will be into a new year. I hope everyone had a good year and all who had sheep permits did well. I know there were some nice sheep taken down here in my area 19.

I started this year's sheep safari on November 19, 2019 when Ryan Amundson had his dad call me to let me know there were some sheep near Morton Pass. I called my good friend, Luke Michelena, and we went up and found 27 ewes, 7 lambs and 3 rams in the band. Two Rams were pretty good sized, one being wide and flared out. Three more years and he will be in the high 180s. When I got back from Cody, I also found out that someone had hit and killed a real nice ram in this same area. A passerby spotted him on the side of the road and went down to Sybille Research Station and reported it. Cole Hanson from the G&F went up and checked it out and the passerby now has a really nice set of horns to treasure. I am going to take my flared horn ram photos up to Cole and find out if it was that ram or another that was killed.

I was unable to make it to the Winter Meeting in Sheridan this year because Luke Michelena couldn't head out until Dec. 8. Luke has to travel about 15 miles by ATV with tracks to get to the main highway and the snow has been deep around Wheatland so far this winter. We left for Cody on the morning of the 9th and the roads were not in the best shape I have ever seen. About 40 miles out of Wheatland Luke said if he was driving, we would be turning around and waiting for another day. Somewhere west of

Casper the roads finally improved, and it was on to sheep country.

After checking into our room, we headed up the North fork of the Shoshone to see how the sheep had fared since the winter of 2018. We saw 27 sheep from the Canyon entrance to where the road is closed for the winter, 17 ewes, 6 lambs, and 4 rams. Two of the lambs we saw were coughing really bad. I thought that there was more snow on the ground this year than in 2018. The road was clear to where they quit plowing and had about 12" on the road after that.

On Tuesday, Dec 10th we started our day having breakfast at "Our Place". I was telling Luke I could have coffee and leave the waitress a \$1 tip for the next four days at this restaurant. Having coffee in Wheatland, my money would only last two days. When was the last time you paid .25 cents for a cup of coffee? After breakfast we started up to the South Fork of the Shoshone. There was very little snow in the trees and on the hillsides up around Deer Creek Campground. We spent the entire day on the South fork and saw a total of 9 sheep, 11 ewes, 2 lambs and 6 rams. It is the least snow I have seen during my recent sheep safaris even on the mountain tops. We decided to spend Thursday on the South Fork as well.

On Wednesday, Dec 11th after breakfast we headed up the North Fork. There was just a little bit of fresh snow and things were looking up for spotting sheep. We had what I thought was a good day with a total of 49 sheep, 26 ewes, 12 lambs, and 11 rams. One of the ewes was wearing tracking collar #52. Most of these collars have been paid for by the Wyoming Wild Sheep foundation in cooperation with the G&F department and are valuable to study movements of the sheep throughout their range. We also saw 6 bull bison. One was strolling down the middle of the highway.

On Thursday, Dec 12th we headed

back up on the South Fork and saw some good sheep country but only 5 sheep, 4 ewes and 1 ram.

We went across the river to the south and checked out Hunter Creek Road as well, they sure have some nice houses out there. The BLM in cooperation with the Wyoming Wild Sheep foundation has been thinning out the junipers to enhance winter habitat for our sheep, deer and elk. They have done a great job and it sure looks different up there next year. It also will make the photo taking easier.

On Friday, Dec 13th we spent the last day of this year's sheep safari on the North Fork and saw a total of 65 sheep, 38 ewes, 11 lambs, and 16 rams. Four of the ewes were collared, 1 red tag, 1 white tag, Blue tag #52 and yellow tag #35. I do believe that Luke enjoyed his first sheep safari with me, he even began to name some of the sheep. As we were watching these sheep, we noticed some of the ewes and lambs coughing quite a bit and we all know what this means. All the money in the world will not cure this problem in Bighorn sheep and it sure is a sad thing to see.

Of the rams that we observed, there were maybe 15 that were solid mature animals. The rest have some growing up to do before they are trophies. The ewes appeared to be in good shape with slick coats. As for the lamb crop, I do believe we are in trouble in the coming years.

Overall this year I would say that they have had good access to forage and a mild winter so far. The sheep numbers that I observed are down again this year. This has been the trend in my observations since 2014. I hope these herds do not go the way of the Dubois sheep that I observed for so many years prior to switching my trip to Cody due to the low numbers of sheep in Dubois.

I guess that it is time to get off my bandwagon and end this article.

Thanks to Dean & Diane DiJenno and Dale & Jacque Sims for the cocktail parties they throw for us. They sure like their Pendleton in Cody! I didn't get to see Jacque this year because UPS was working her late every night. I did enjoy visiting with former board member, Dan Hinz, again and hearing of his latest hunting trips. He kept me in stitches with his African stories especially when he said that Dale's Kudu still had milk on its lips and that horns were mounted backwards. JUST KIDDING!
Well, till next year. Keep your powder dry and think Bighorn Sheep.



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- More businesses are coming on-line every week

Thank you everyone for your emails and calls of support. We look forward to helping everyone plan a great tropical vacation at Casuarina Sea Breeze!

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Enjoyed a great time over the Holiday's with Bob & Janice at their Casuarina Sea Breeze Vacation Get Away. They have done such a fantastic job to provide their visitors with a newly remodeled and high quality accommodations, with all the amenities not often found in a vacation rental home.

Bob & Janice's attention to detail is displayed in their coffee table portfolio of what to do on the Island of Abaco. Their fishing boats, water toys, (Kayaks, stand up paddle boards ) are very well taken care of and maintained, their guests can enjoy the beautiful warm water right out from the sun room on the beautiful white sand beach.

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# “Father-Son Memories”

By Jim Evans

In 2018 my son, James, and I hunted together for bighorn sheep in the mountains west of Cody, Wyoming. It started about twenty years ago when, having each harvested a moose and several deer, elk and antelope over the years, we decided we would like to hunt bighorn sheep. Since sheep tags are difficult to draw and we wanted to hunt together we began buying points each year until we had accumulated enough to ensure both would draw.

Late November 2017 I had a heart attack and had bypass surgery. The heart attack and surgery were a wakeup call. If we were going to hunt together it would have to be soon. We checked our points and thought we had each acquired enough to ensure drawing. Neither of us had ever hired a guide before but knew that for sheep we would be lost without one.

We also knew we didn't have the time or capability to spend weeks scouting and hunting so a good outfitter who had the equipment and knowledge to make the hunt a double success would be necessary. The outfitter and his guides must have knowledge and experience hunting sheep and must do the scouting necessary to know where to find good rams at any given time. It is also important that they learn and accommodate the capabilities of the hunter.

Jimmy Owens with Lost Creek Outfitters was recommended and I contacted him. After we explained my limitations, they told about other hunters they had guided with medical issues and were enthusiastic

about accommodating my situation.

We received our permits. We arrived at Jimmy's ranch the morning of September 3rd and met the hunters who had just come out of the mountains the day before and admired the sheep they had taken. We loaded our gear into the trucks and headed out with Jimmy, his brother Mike, and Cameron Schmidt. Jimmy and his guides were great and took my abilities into account choosing locations



to hunt that would allow me to be successful. We rode horses into the Big Creek drainage where our camp was set up. That evening and the next morning we glassed a large basin where the guides had observed sheep a couple of weeks earlier. A pack of wolves had followed a herd of elk into the basin which caused the sheep to leave also. We left that area by about noon on our second day and drove to the Mormon Creek drainage where we packed in to a high camp near another basin where the guides had seen nice

sheep while scouting. That evening we observed some sheep from a vantage point overlooking the basin and had high hopes for getting a chance at sheep the following day. Early the next day we were on an overlook and eventually spotted several sheep a couple of miles away on the other side of the basin. They were staying in an old forest fire area with burned standing trees and new growth cover. We worked our way along a steep rocky ridge with lots

of loose rock and watched them from a rock outcrop overlooking their location and determined a route to approach. We got close in the burned timber and new growth but they spooked and left before we could get a shot. It had taken most of the day to get to that point and it was late afternoon so we immediately headed

back to camp straight across the basin. It was about 1:00 a.m. when we reached camp, had a quick meal and went to bed. The next morning we didn't get an early start and I was not up to another hike like the day before. We watched awhile from the overlook we had spotted the sheep from the day before without seeing sheep. Mike and James traversed a ridge to hunt another basin. Jimmy and Cameron climbed to another overlook to see another area leaving me to watch

the first basin and recuperate. That afternoon, on the way back to my location, Mike and James spotted sheep in one of the draws in the basin I was watching. Jimmy and Cameron could also see them from their location. Mike got James into position and he shot his sheep. The others all went down to the sheep and collected the meat, head and cape. It was late when we reached camp but it had been a successful day. The next day we went back to the overlook and glassed the basin.

We spotted some sheep below us with a nice ram in the group. It was about 800 yards away, too far for my rifle. The guides decided the ram was too exposed for us to get close

to unobserved and that I should take the shot with Mike's rifle, a 6mm-284 that he built. They dialed the range into the scope and I took a shot, clean miss. They thought it was about 5 inches too high. The sheep spooked and we didn't see any more for several hours. About noon, while various options were being considered, I spotted a ram lying on a little ridge in the basin. Again it was about 800 yards. This time we were able to stalk to about 400 yards and I took a shot with Jimmy's rifle, a 7mm-STW, also built by Mike. The ram dropped in his tracks and we headed down to dress it out. The guides all thought it was bigger than the others they had

seen come out of the area that year. We packed up the meat, head and cape and Jimmy and Cameron carried it to the top of the ridge while I did my best just to get myself there. While we were getting the sheep, Mike and James broke camp and loaded the animals. They got to the top of the ridge about the time we came out of the basin saving us another half mile of hiking. We headed out and reached town about 8:00 that evening. Monday morning, after taking the heads to the Game and Fish office in Cody to have the horns plugged, we took the sheep to Dewey's Wildlife Studio in Cody for mounting.





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## Dean and Diane DiJenno - 2020 Recipients of the national WSF “Gordon Eastman Grass Roots Award”

Dean and Diane DiJenno put the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation under the spotlight at the Sheep Show in Reno this past January, 2020. The late Gordon Eastman created the “Grass Roots Award” for presentation at the WSF Annual Convention. His intention was “..... to honor the hard-working Chapter and Affiliate members that get almost no recognition for their unending work toward the existence of the North American wild sheep.”

Well, the late Mr. Eastman’s wish was 200% fulfilled with the recognition of two folks, Dean and Diane. I certainly can’t speak for other chapters and affiliates, but I know of no other WY-WSF members that work as hard as the DiJennos. Yet, consistently, and by design, position themselves in the background and avoid the limelight.

Well, guess what. Your well-deserved national WSF “Grass Roots Award” exposed the two of you, in front of a huge audience, if only for a minute. Lights glaring down on you, photos snapped, complimentary comments, a “short” acceptance comment (no speech of course), applause, then a quick fade, retreating into the background. But, Exposed!!

There’s simply not enough space to list the accomplishments of the DiJenno team. Not only have they grown the home-state WY-WSF chapter greatly, they have led the silent auction under the big tent at the Sheep Show for the past several years. They have been more than leaders. They increased the Sheep Show silent auction revenues considerably, every year. Thus, their accomplishments are not just home-based, but national.

Kim Nieters is the Auction/Awards Director for national WSF. She had this to say, “When I received in the nominations for the 2020 Grass Roots Award and saw that Dean and Diane were going to be the recipients of this prestigious award during our 2020 “Sheep Show”, I was so excited! I cannot express enough gratitude for this couple! They have been great supporters and volunteers for many years and I’m so grateful to have them on the WSF team! A HUGE and personal “Thank You” Dean and Diane for all you do to make things run so smooth in the Silent Auction. I honestly couldn’t do it without you! I look forward to many more years of working with you both!”

They spend countless and tireless weeks, not hours or days, giving back to Wyoming’s wildlife. And, not just through WY-WSF, but through the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and many other wildlife related volunteer activities. I know if Wyoming’s wild critters could fill out nomination forms and vote on award selection committees, the DiJennos’ walls would be covered with awards and certificates of appreciation. But, the DiJennos don’t want that. In their quiet unassuming way, they just want healthy robust wildlife on Wyoming’s landscapes. If only we could all be as giving and supportive of OUR wildlife.

On behalf of the wild critters scampering and roaming Wyoming’s landscapes, we applaud and salute you for your incredible, but silent efforts. By Steve Kilpatrick





2019 SUPER TAG TRIFECTA WINNER ERIC NESHEIM

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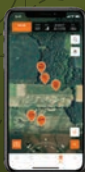


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# OUR WINTER MEETING

WYO Governor, Mark Gordon addressing the dinner crowd.



Kings Museum



G&F Director, Brian Nesvik

Touring the Story Fish Hatchery



# IN SHERIDAN, DEC 5&6, 2019

The WY WSF Winter Meeting continues to grow in quantity and quality. Wyoming Game and Fish Director Brian Nesvik addressed the attendees at the Friday evening social and took questions/answers for the better part of an hour. Thoughtful and sincere discussions focused on bighorn declines, disease, habitat and the functions of the Bighorn/Domestic Sheep Interactive Working Group.

Saturday morning tours were very educational. The WGFD Story Fish Hatchery is nationally renowned for its excellence in augmenting fisheries, especially golden trout. Weatherby's tour was equally fascinating – what an amazing facility to have in Wyoming. If you haven't been through the King's Saddlery Museum, it is a must – a unknown jewel of Wyoming's history.

Saturday afternoon's presentations by wild sheep manager/researchers were some of the best – updates to Whiskey Basin research – pneumonia still persistent; “bugs 101” – pneumonia pathogens are complex; CWD – grim outlook for mule deer and maybe elk; Devil's Canyon sheep – still doing well; Sheep Center – amazing outreach/educational efforts, Camp Bighorn a hit.

The meeting was capped off with Governor Mark Gordon and First Lady Jennie attending the banquet. Doug McWhirter, WGFD gave a most excellent presentation on “State of Wyoming's Wild Sheep”. That was followed by an inspirational video of Camp Bighorn. Governor Gordon then wrapped things up with a short delivery about the importance of wildlife to Wyoming. The Governor and First Lady also socialized with numerous individuals after the banquet. We are so lucky to have them as leaders of our wildlife rich state – so wholesome and down-to-earth.

The winter meetings continue to grow, in many aspects, and we certainly hope you find time to attend next year.

The WY-WSF Board of Directors and members recently approved an additional \$86,150 for wild sheep conservation at their winter meeting in Sheridan, Dec. 7, 2019. When combined with the summer meeting allocation, the WY-WSF has contributed over \$137,000 in putting and keeping KIDS and WILD SHEEP on the mountain in 2019. Moreover, the national Wild Sheep Foundation contributed \$28,500 to Wyoming wild sheep projects, and the Wyoming Governor's Big Game License Coalition contributed \$424,583. That's a whopping \$586,583 directed towards wild sheep conservation!! You should be proud! Review all WY-WSF projects at: [Grant In Aid Page](#)



Tour of Weatherby Firearms led by Keith Van Pelt, VP of Operations..



Raleigh Whalen accepts the Outstanding Donor Award on behalf of Weatherby Firearms.

# 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.



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# “The Next Generation: Lambs and Kids” By Sara Domek



When we consider bighorn sheep and the viability of these populations into future generations, we focus on the lambs.

From biologists and researchers to hunters or wildlife photographers, all of us are aware of the critical importance of the lambs, as their survival to adulthood is the foundation of thriving bighorn populations in the future.

The primary mission of the National Bighorn Sheep Center focuses on the next generation of wild sheep enthusiasts, those “lambs” of today who we inspire and educate to become the leaders of wildlife conservation in the future. Our education team engages these youth (and learners of all ages) in hands-on, curriculum-focused lessons, activities and immersive programs. From our long list of special events planned for 2020 (please visit <https://bighorn.org/events/>), to the nearly 7,000 visitors who come through the Center’s doors annually, we focus on sharing the story of this amazing species and the challenges and opportunities it faces.

Alongside our partners and supporters including the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation, we are concerned about the future of bighorn sheep, and in particular, our local iconic Whiskey Mountain herd.

Equally so, we are more impassioned than ever to commit to the future of this species. It is our goal to reach more people and, in particular, youth, through meaningful programs and events. Through these efforts and your involvement, we are doing our part

to ensure that lambs and the people who will care for them are present and robust long into the future.

We encourage YOU to participate this year, whether as a volunteer at Camp Bighorn in August or by contributing your time by attending a special event.

The core of our success is our supporters and

partners including the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation...

### YOU make our work possible!

Your financial support ensures that we continue this work, and your critical feedback and vision for how we can improve keeps us moving forward. Sincere thanks and gratitude for your continued support!



# NBSC Doings: Camp Bighorn Registration is Open!, Recap: Youth Wildlife Conservation Experience in Reno

## Registration is Open!

WHEN: August 2-6, 2020

WHO: Youth ages 9-12

WHERE: Whiskey Mountain Conservation Camp, Dubois, WY

WHAT: 5-day immersive

summer camp focused on bighorn sheep and their habitat

COST: \$500 per youth

(scholarships available)

Price includes cabin stays

and home-cooked meals

CONTACT: 307-455-3429,

sara@bighorn.org, register

on line at [bighorn.org/](http://bighorn.org/)

[programs/camp-bighorn/](http://bighorn.org/programs/camp-bighorn/)

Want to sponsor youth to attend Camp Bighorn 2020?

Please get in touch with Sara!

Partners: National Bighorn

Sheep Center & Wild Sheep

Foundation Chapter & Affiliates

In 2019, the first-overnight Camp

Bighorn held at the Whiskey

Mountain Conservation Camp

near Dubois, WY was a great

success! We hosted 25 amazing

youth ages 9-12 years old from as

far away as Alaska and as near as

Dubois to participate in this fun,

educational full-immersion camp

designed to inspire and educate

youth about bighorn sheep and

their habitat. From a trek to the

top of Torrey Rim (everyone made

it!), to riparian macro invertebrates

alongside Torrey Creek to an

exploration of forest ecology

and habitat management, youth

participates dove in deep to explore

this amazing place and home to the

Whiskey Mountain herd of

Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep.

A short film, "Camp Bighorn

2019" captures some of the

moments at Camp Bighorn

created by our partner and the

Education Coordinator of the

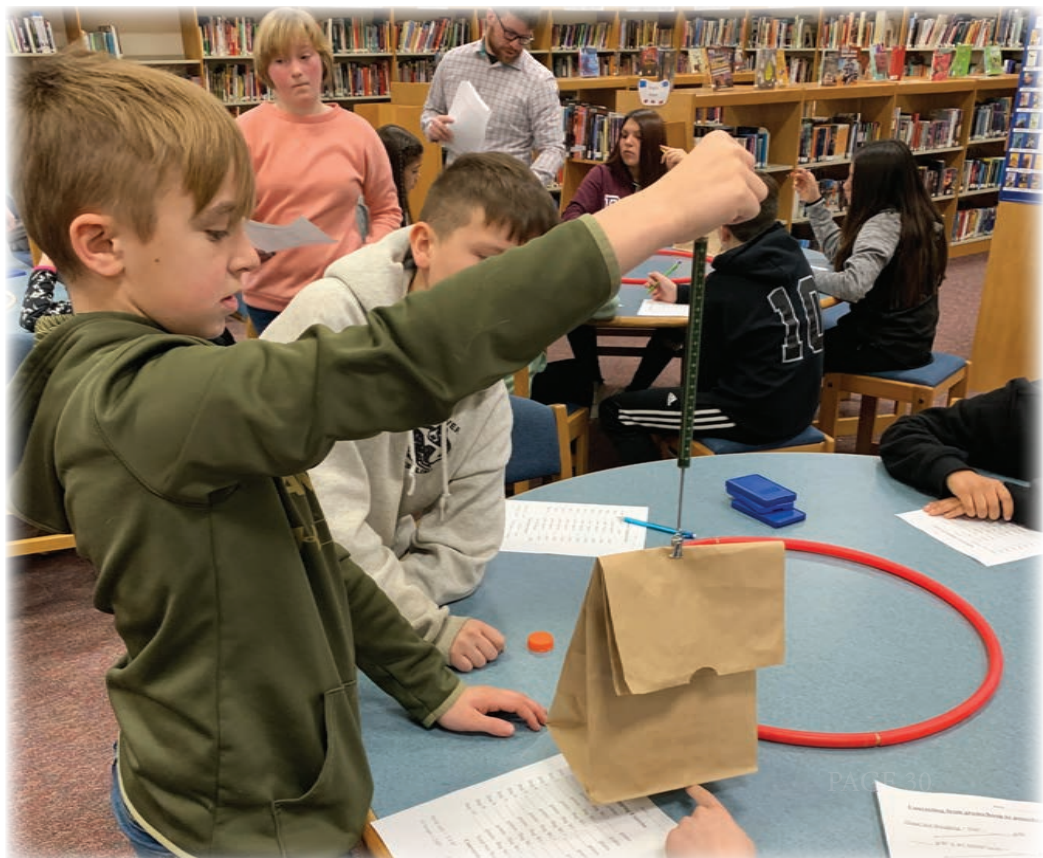
Wild Sheep Foundation, Ryan

Brock. It is available for viewing

by visiting our website: [bighorn.org/programs/camp-bighorn/](http://bighorn.org/programs/camp-bighorn/).

In mid-January National Bighorn Sheep Center staff Sara and Karen, along with super volunteers Jessica Shuler, Troy Sullivan and Tory Taylor, traveled to Reno for the Wild Sheep Show. The Youth Wildlife Conservation Experience is our biggest event of the year, and we connected with over 1,500 students as well as their parents and teachers. Tory got lots of attention with his sidekick "Rocky O'Canadensis" and his displays of replica items that Mountain Shoshone made from bighorn sheep. One of the activities we brought along was a migration activity in which the students (and some adults!) "become" bighorn sheep and experience the challenges that wildlife encounter during their annual migrations. In the simulation, they had to jump fences, trudge through deep snow and watch for traffic as they crossed

a busy highway. The students learned about the importance of intact habitat, migration corridors and wildlife overpasses. We also shared information about bighorn sheep adaptations and some of the struggles they face, such as pneumonia. Our team is currently preparing for the many school group tours we will welcome in the spring, Kid's Corner events in June and Camp Bighorn in August. We have some brand-new activities planned for Kid's Corner such as "Wildlife—Out his World!" and "In Bighorn Sheep Shoes". We are super excited about our second year of Camp Bighorn, and are planning many fun learning opportunities. Check out our website or Facebook page for more information or to sign up for these events. If you would like to volunteer for any of these events, we are always looking to add to our herd! Contact [sara@bighorn.org](mailto:sara@bighorn.org) or call us at 307-455-3429.



# Statewide Sheep Harvest Declines, What Happened?

By Doug McWhirter, WY G&F

In the fall of 2019, 182 sheep hunters took to the hills of Wyoming, and based on statewide harvest statistics they had a pretty good year. However, I would be willing to bet that few, if any, of those hunters realize they were among the smallest group of sheep hunters to pursue bighorns in Wyoming since 1959. And, as a result of so few hunters, the 143 rams taken in 2019 represents the lowest harvest of bighorn rams in Wyoming since 1976. So what happened?

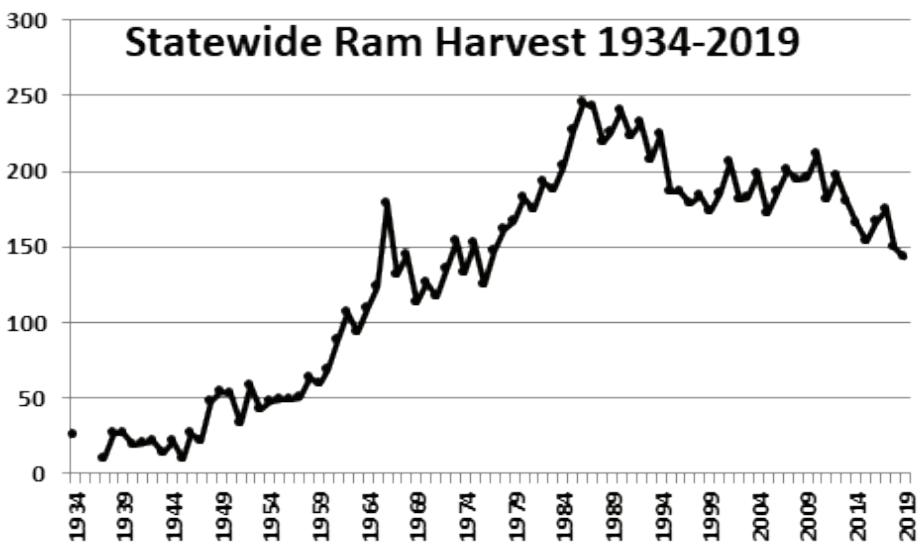
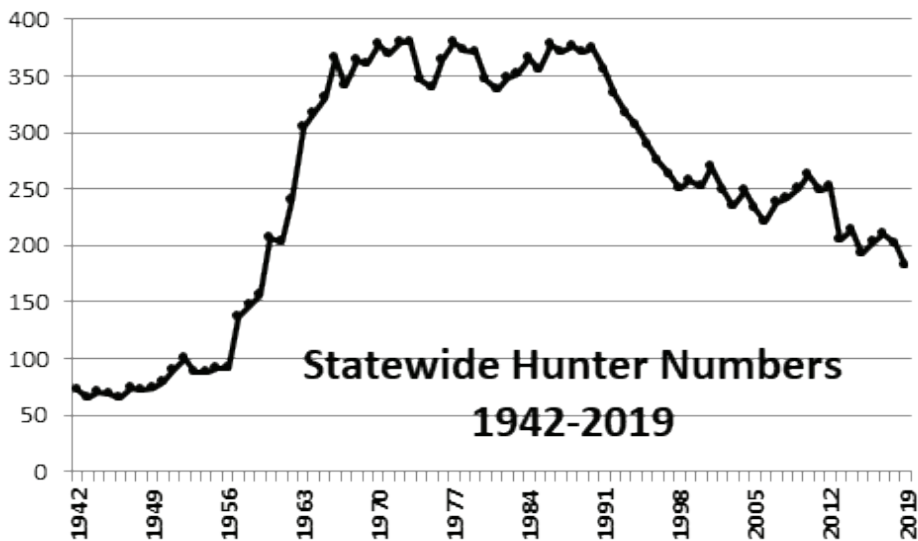
To get the big picture let's go back a few years to the 1940s and early 1950s. Sheep license numbers were based on input from field managers and check station surveys of licensed hunters. Statewide estimates during that time ranged from 1,600 sheep to 2,500 sheep, and permit levels averaged 78. In 1956-1957, the first comprehensive aerial survey of all Wyoming bighorn sheep was undertaken with a specific goal of determining the abundance of legal rams, which back then was defined as "a male mountain sheep with well developed horns, not less

than three-quarter curl".

A total of 1,140 sheep were seen on this survey, which included 211 legal rams and 84 immature rams, and produced a ram:100 ewe ratio of 55:100. Based on these results it was felt there enough rams to provide significantly more opportunity than was currently being offered, and permits were increased by 47% the next year.

At the same time we really started re-establishing sheep herds through transplants, and from 1958 to 1989 we took 1,175 sheep from Whiskey Basin and spread them throughout Wyoming in places like the Ferris and Seminoe Mountains, the east and west slopes of the Bighorn Mountains, the southern Wind River Mountains, the Laramie Range, the Wyoming Range, and along the North Platte and Encampment Rivers. As these herds grew (at least initially) more permits were issued. So between documenting more sheep and starting new populations, a dramatic increase in permits occurred from 1957 to 1970, and this level was essentially maintained through 1990.

And now the story starts to get sad. As most everyone knows, in the fall/early winter of 1990 an all-age pneumonia outbreak hit sheep on the Whiskey Basin winter ranges, and ultimately reduced the herd from perhaps 1,500 to 2,000 sheep to less than 1,000. Lamb recruitment suffered, but was still able to sustain the population, and 800-900 sheep were still being counted until the year 2000. Then from 2000 to 2010 sheep counts dropped to 500-600, and have since dropped again to 300-500 sheep, where they remain today. This obviously affected hunting licenses, and from 1991 to 2010, sheep tags in Hunt Areas 8, 9, 10, and 23 dropped



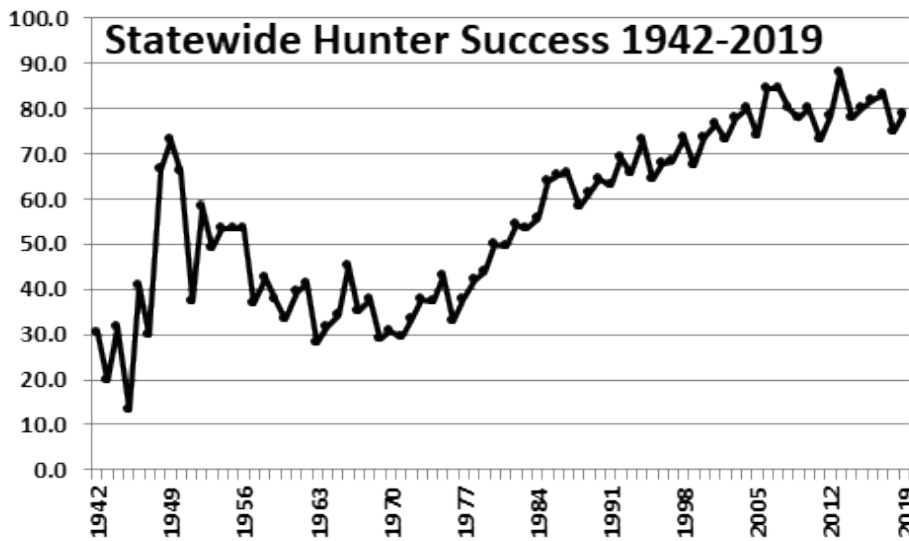


from 98 to 24, and was responsible for the statewide drop in hunters during the same period. Then in 2001, Hunt Area 7 in the Gros Ventre suffered an all-age pneumonia die-off, and licenses there were reduced from 28 to 4, and further exacerbated the decline of the early 2000s.

There was a small increase in licenses and harvest from 2007 to 2012,

Area 5 dropped from a high of 70 to 32 licenses in 2015. Insult was added to injury as Whiskey Mountain continued to slip, and by 2019 there were only 16 hunters in Hunt Areas 8, 9, and 10 (Hunt Area 23 was removed when it was added to Hunt Area 8 in 2017). Further permit reductions occurred in Hunt Areas 1 and 2 in 2019, and brought us to where we are today.

the advent of preference points in 1995 placed even more emphasis on these hunts. And although there are random draw licenses in some areas, preference points have essentially made drawing a sheep license a once-in-a-lifetime event, and hunters want to make sure they give it their best in order to be successful.



which can be explained by permit increases in the Absarokas (primarily Hunt Areas 4 and 5), but also from contributions from Hunt Areas 12 (Devils Canyon), 18 (Douglas Creek), 20 (Elk Mountain), and 21 (Encampment River). Hunting opportunities in these areas were made possible by the ability to issue less than 4 licenses in a hunt area, which was granted in 2008.

This small recovery was quickly reversed by severe winter conditions that arrived in the southern Absarokas in March of 2011 that primarily affected Hunt Areas 4 and 5, but also parts of Hunt Area 3. What was initially thought to be just winter losses presumably triggered a disease event, as sheep deaths continued for the next three years. Soon, Hunt Area 4 dropped from 44 licenses in 2010 to 20 licenses in 2013 and Hunt

So, is there any good news? Actually there is. Although our large, core native populations are currently struggling, our re-established herds are doing very well. And although permit levels have dramatically declined, if you are lucky enough to draw a license, chances are you'll have an incredible hunt in any area in the state. This is because we adjust license numbers based on population trends and ram abundance, and manage for hunter success rates around 80%, and for harvested rams that on average are around seven years old. The 143 rams taken by the 182 hunters in 2019 equates to a 79% hunter success rate. This kind of success was not even seen in Wyoming until 2004, and the average success rate has stayed there ever since. And even though hunters were already starting to place more emphasis on bighorn sheep hunting (and on increasing their success),

And just as permit levels are adjusted to ensure high success rates, we closely monitor the average age of harvested rams in each hunt area every year to ensure the continued harvest of primarily mature rams (which is why you must bring in your harvested ram for us to age and measure). And even though there are fewer licenses these days, the average age of rams taken is meeting or exceeding our goal of maintaining an average age of six to eight years of age in almost every area. In 2019 we hunted 16 hunt areas, and only one had rams that averaged less than six years of age (and at 5.9 years it was very close). In the remaining 15 areas, two averaged between six and seven years of age, seven averaged between seven and eight years of age, and six had an average age that exceeded eight years old.

So the bad news is license numbers are way down. The good news is that if you draw a license, your chances of having a great hunt may be as good as they have ever been. Sure, we still have a lot to work on, and we want to see tag numbers increase so that more people can have the incredible experience of hunting a bighorn sheep in Wyoming. Your participation in the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation makes addressing these challenges possible, and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department sincerely thanks you for your contributions to this chapter, and for entrusting us to manage your bighorn sheep for you!

# **MOUNTAIN HUNTING IS WHAT WE DO**





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FAMILY**

# 2020 LIFE MEMBER INCENTIVE DRAWING

## 2020 Life Member's Drawing for a Fall 2020 or Spring 2021, 1 on 1 Guided West Texas Aoudad Hunt with High West Outfitters.

The hunt includes: 3 ½ day hunt/4 night lodging, 3 meals per day, Full guide services, Field care of animal, Taxidermy prep, Drop off to our taxidermist.

Not included in price: Texas 5 Day Special Hunting License, Taxidermy, Shipping of trophy, Transportation from airport, Alcohol, Gratuity

- The winning life member **MUST** be registered for the banquet and **PRESENT** at the 2020 WY-WSF Life Member Breakfast on June 6, 2020 in Casper, WY.
- Every WY-WSF regular Life member registered and present at the breakfast will have their name entered once into this drawing at no additional cost.
- Every Ramshorn Society Life member registered and present at the breakfast will have their name entered **TWICE** 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 hunt to another life member. The hunt 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 hunt for profit or cash.
- The WY-WSF board reserves the right to transfer the hunt to alternate Life members, if the first winner attempts to sell or trade this hunt.
- Any board member, volunteer, director, or officer who is also a life member, of Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation that is present and registered at the life member breakfast is eligible to win this banquet credit.
- **The value of this hunt may not be redeemed for cash.**
- One WY-WSF Life membership will be auctioned at the Saturday, June 6, 2020 Life member breakfast. This life membership must be paid in full prior to the drawing for this hunt and the buyer will be eligible to win the hunt.



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2020 Banquet Seminars & Speakers  
Saturday, June 6 at 1:00 PM  
In the Grand Casper D Ball Room

Encampment River Bighorns  
State of BHS in WYO,  
UW Research Update -Whiskey Basin  
BLM Updates for Ferris - Seminole Mtns  
Teton Sheep & Goat Update  
Cheatgrass Control  
National Sheep Center Updates



*Friday Night Rendezvous*  
*Join us at the Clarion in the Grand*  
*Casper Ball Room for a South of the*  
*Border Buffet and cash bar beginning*  
*at 6 P.M. There will be games, raffles,*  
*and a video by Kuiu showing Zane*  
*Foust on his Stone Sheep Hunt. Reunite*  
*with your friends and be prepared to*  
*have a good time!*

# 2020 Live Auction Items

View the Complete Auction line Up with Detailed Descriptions, Photos, and Videos at:

[Online Hunting Auctions](#)

5th And Final 2020 Wyo Governor's Bh Sheep License  
5 Day South Africa Safari For Two, Cape Buffalo And 4 More  
Animals with TDK in 2021  
2020 Fall Brown Bear Hunt In Alaska.  
3 Day 2020 Waterfowl Hunt In Alberta For 6  
Area 122 Cow Elk Hunt For 2, Guided By Jimmy Owens  
Weatherby's Bullets, Booze, And A Big Bang Package  
Wild Sheep Foundation Life Membership  
2020 Youth Deer Hunt In Sheridan  
7 Day Moose or Mountain Goat Hunt In 2021 For 1 With Wicked  
River Outfitters In British Columbia, Canada  
Banquet Rifle- Weatherby Back Country  
Custom Handmade Leather Chinks By Lm Ryan Amundson  
2021 West Texas Aoudad Hunt With Rowdy Mcbride  
3day/4night Oregon Steelhead Fishing For Two Anglers. April 2022.  
2-Hr Solo Concert Performance And Songwriting Session With  
Jared Rogerson, Anywhere In Sublette County For Any Number Of  
People In Attendance.  
Maven S-2 Spotting Scope With WY-WSF Logo  
4 - Days Pyrenean Chamois Hunt For 1 Hunter in Fall of 2020  
Dewey Wildlife Studios - Shoulder Mount On Pedestal With Habitat  
One Full Day Of Guided Fly Fishing Either Drift Boat Or Wade  
Fishing For Two Anglers On The North Platte Near Casper.  
A Custom Hand Made Pedestal Base. From Barn Wood,  
2020 Banquet Knife with WY-WSF logo, Sheep Horn Handle  
Wild Sheep Shoulder Mount From Hartmans Taxidermy  
7 Day Stay for up to 8 people on Abaco, Bahamas includes skiff.  
Custom Made Cedar Slab Bistro Table  
Custom Made Pine Gun Case with Frosted Glass "Sheep" Scene  
Custom Wall Lamp by WY Back Country Decor  
3 Day 2 Antelope Youth hunt on a private ranch near Gillette in 2020  
Azyre Gear Women's Clothing Package



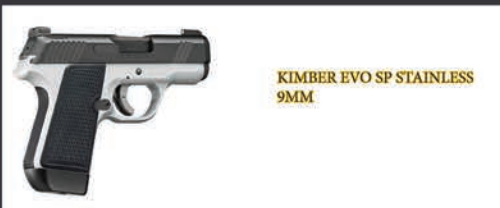
THE CONTEST IS OPEN TO EVERYONE.  
DRAWING WILL BE HELD ON JUNE 6, 2020  
AT THE WYOMING WILD SHEEP  
CONVENTION IN CASPER, WY.  
YOU NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN

# SIX GUN RAFFLE

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

### **\$6200 IN GUNS!**

## 2020 Photo Contest

Bring your favorite photo to the banquet and win Auction credits!  
Color or black and white, no larger than 11 X 14, put your name on  
the rear of the photo, no frames please.

Sponsored by Freddie Goetz.



Photo by Mark Gocke

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES IN THE JACKSON HOLE HALL FROM 5-6:30 PM

*Please join the Wild Sheep Foundation and the National Bighorn Sheep Center for special youth activities during the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation's Annual Convention and Fundraiser on Saturday, June 6th in Casper, WY. Highlights of the family-friendly and youth activities will include laser shot, hover archery, bighorn biology 101, a wildlife habitat resources game, survival bracelets, arrowhead necklaces, wildlife ID, and more. Prizes for all youth in attendance will be provided, and we encourage all youth to register for the banquet later that evening.*

### "CLIMB LIKE A BIGHORN"

*Where: Rock Gym, 408 N. Beverly, Casper, WY*

*When: Saturday, June 6, 2019 from 1pm-4pm*

*The Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation, National Bighorn Sheep Center and Wild Sheep Foundation invite youth of all ages down to the 5150' Rock Gym located at 408 N. Beverly Street for the "Climb Like a Bighorn" youth event! All youth will be provided climbing shoes, instruction and a safe climbing atmosphere to try their own hand (and feet) at climbing like bighorn sheep. As part of the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation's Annual Convention, this new youth event is focused on bringing in chapter members and families, alongside Casper-area youth, to learn about bighorn sheep and have lots of fun on the walls for free!*

*Please join us! Check with us when you arrive for shuttle information to the gym.*

*People of all ages are encouraged to come visit the youth activities room during the evening's event. Great prizes including two life memberships to the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation courtesy of the Conservation Fund, a guided cow elk hunt donated by Cole Benton, Sitka gear, Camp Bighorn youth participation, hunting bows, fishing outfits and lots more will be available to all youth participants!*

**Interested in volunteering to help at the youth event this year? Please contact Sara at the National Bighorn Sheep Center (307)455-3429 or by email: [sara@bighorn.org](mailto:sara@bighorn.org)**



# GRANT IN AID UPDATES

## New ways to count sheep in the Teton Range

By Carson Butler and Sara Dewey, Grand Teton National Park

Picking up excrement is probably not high on most people's list of 'most exciting things to do in a day', but biologists are fired up about picking up bighorn sheep scat in the Teton Range. The Teton Range bighorn sheep population (also known as the Targhee Herd) is Wyoming's smallest 'core-native herd' and it spends summer and winter scattered across the high elevations of the Tetons. The population's wintering strategy poses a challenge to biologists trying to count and classify its members using traditional methods. The typical weather conditions limit when survey flights are feasible, leading to highly challenging survey conditions and variable population counts. Given these challenges and the need for precise abundance estimates for this small population, biologists are testing out new ways to count sheep in this population.

Grand Teton National Park, in cooperation with state, federal, and university partners, is spearheading an effort to use non-traditional methods to obtain more precise estimates of annual abundance for the Teton Range bighorn sheep population. The effort focuses

monitoring efforts at approximately ten natural mineral licks used by the population. At these mineral licks, biologists and volunteers are deploying trail-cameras to obtain photos and collecting bighorn sheep scat to obtain DNA, which is used to identify the individual animal that deposited the scat. Each approach offers a different way to estimate abundance and the findings will be compared to determine which approach is most effective.



Preliminarily, both methods are promising as over 40,000 trail-camera photos of bighorn sheep were obtained in summer 2019 and genetic analysis identified a minimum of 97 unique bighorn sheep from the 309 scat samples that were tested by the laboratory. In the coming months biologists will use statistical models to estimate the total population-size based on the trail camera photos and separately based on the DNA from scat samples. This effort will continue in 2020 and may replace winter helicopter surveys as the primary method used to count sheep in the Tetons.

# GRANT IN AID UPDATES

## Bighorn Sheep Nutrition and Disease Project Winter 2020 Update Rachel Smiley, Britany Wagler, and Kevin Monteith

Winter took its toll on the final lambs collared as part of the Bighorn Sheep Nutrition and Disease Project led by the Monteith Shop at the University of Wyoming in collaboration with Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Bureau of Land Management, and the Wyoming State Vet Lab. All 18 lambs collared this past summer died from various causes. Many fell victim to the causes of mortality we expect from neonate ungulates such as predation, accidents, and malnutrition in the first few weeks of life. After the remaining lambs overcame the first hurdle of surviving these typical causes of mortality, they faced a seemingly bigger hurdle: pneumonia. Beginning in early July, pneumonia was the only observed cause of mortality for the rest of the summer, claiming more half of the lambs. Once September hit, there were only three lambs left alive,

two in the Whiskey herd and one in the Jackson herd. Bill Sincavage, a local photographer and board member of the National Bighorn Sheep Center, photographed the two remaining lambs in the Whiskey herd with snotty noses—a clear sign of pneumonia. One succumbed to the disease in late October and, in late November, the last lamb in the Jackson herd died of unknown causes. In mid-February the last lamb of the Whiskey herd died, likely killed by a predator.

Before this project began, we knew the Whiskey Basin herd had exceptionally low rates of lamb survival. We didn't know exactly what was killing them, but suspected pneumonia was a contributing factor. The results of this past summer suggest that pneumonia is the leading issue of poor recruitment in the Whiskey herd. It appears that even

if the lambs can survive through the trials faced in the first few weeks of life, which generally is the riskiest time for a newborn ungulate, they are still vulnerable to pneumonia. Although one goal of this project is to determine what is killing the lambs, we hope the value of this work will lie in determining why the lambs in the Whiskey herd are particularly susceptible. Herds throughout the west have pneumonia, but not all are suffering the long-term population declines that the Whiskey herd is experiencing. We know that pneumonia is a culprit for the Whiskey herd's decline, and we want to be able to identify the various factors that influence their apparent susceptibility to pneumonia.

The data we collect about how and when the lambs die is important, but perhaps more illuminating will be the rest of the

data that will be coupled with evidence of survival or death. Our work before initiating the lamb survival portion of the project suggested that summer nutrition in the Whiskey herd may play an important role in their lack of success in recruiting lambs. Therefore, half of our field season is spent studying the habitats these sheep live in during the summer. We're on our hands



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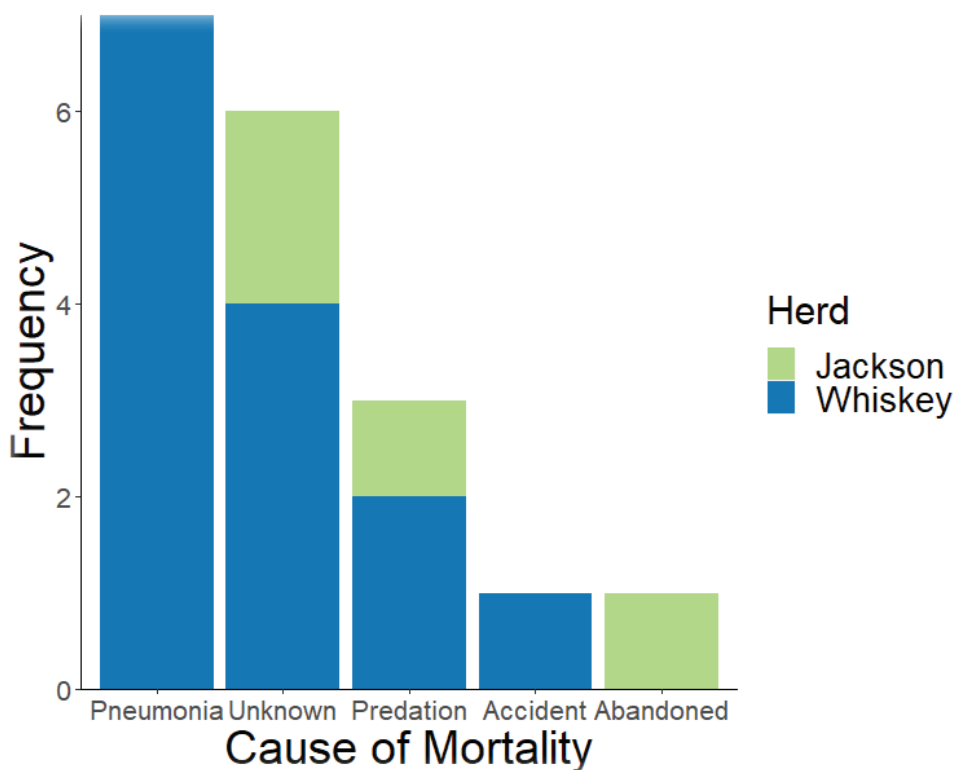
and knees identifying plant species, collecting bags of plant clippings, and searching for poop. While finding enough alpine avens to fill a paper bag may feel less rewarding than collaring a newborn lamb, these are the data that will help us identify the driving factors behind the population decline. With intensive habitat surveying, we will be able to determine the quality of each sheep's diet, from micronutrients to protein content. With this information, we will be able to draw comparisons of summer nutrition between the Whiskey and Jackson herds. We suspect that understanding the link between nutrition and disease is key to understanding differences in bighorn sheep population performance.

One season of collecting data on lamb survival and summer nutrition gave us a glimpse into the overall patterns that the bighorn sheep in the Wind River and Gros Ventre ranges are experiencing. Additional seasons of data collection will allow us to draw much stronger conclusions and provide a broader



picture of the factors influencing sheep populations. With that in mind, we are preparing for our second of three field seasons. Again this summer we will cover countless miles in the Wind River and Gros Ventre ranges collaring lambs, picking up poop, and collecting plants on summer range. Beyond summers of data collection, the rest of the year is filled with lab analyses

of the samples collected, data analysis, and conversations with our many collaborators and experts in the field of bighorn sheep pneumonia. The Bighorn Sheep Nutrition and Disease Project is a marathon, not a sprint, and it will take time to collect and piece together the data to reveal the root of differences in population performance. The dismal lamb survival observed this year is discouraging, but the information we can draw from it should be a source of progress towards understanding pneumonia in bighorn sheep. With critical support from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust, Wyoming Governor's Big Game License Coalition, Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation, Wild Sheep Foundation, Bowhunters of Wyoming, Wyoming Wildlife/Livestock Disease Research Partnership, and the Teton Conservation District the team will continue to work towards identifying the link between nutrition and disease in bighorn sheep to seek possible solutions to aid in keeping sheep on the mountain.



Ross Gorman  
PHOTOGRAPHY





# GRANT IN AID UPDATES

## Fall 2019 Ferris and Seminoe Mountains Habitat Work Updates Seminoe and Bennett Mountain Ranges

Vegetation treatments have occurred since the 2007 Seminoe Fire in the Bennett Mountains, which was briefly managed for resource benefit before being fully suppressed. Large-scale prescribed fire was introduced into the Seminoe Mountains on the south side of the Marking Pen Creek drainage in spring of 2011 and again in spring of 2012. The July 2012 Seminoe Wildfire burned the northeast corner of the mountain range above Miracle Mile and Kortez Reservoir. This fire was managed under a full suppression strategy. Prescribed fire followed in spring 2013 to clean up a portion of the wildfire area above the Morgan Creek drainage. A guzzler was installed above the Bennett Mountains wildfire in 2011, and two guzzlers damaged by the 2012 wildfire were repaired in 2013 above Seminoe Dam. During 2013, 2014, and 2017, mostly south and east facing slopes affected by and adjacent to fire activity have been treated for cheatgrass by aerial application of plateau herbicide.

Future planned actions include the replacement of both guzzlers above Seminoe Dam with new, more efficient designs. Fuel breaks have been prepared to aid in holding the Indian Pass prescribed fire, which is planned to complete the remaining south half of the Marking Pen Creek drainage and south slopes of the Seminoe Mountains above Hurt Creek, tentatively planned for spring and fall 2020. Mechanical cutting treatments are planned for the Morgan Creek Drainage to remove conifers from aspen stands and upland mountain shrub communities. These treatments will improve bighorn sheep, mule deer, and elk habitat, and also aid in

mitigation of wildfire risk to deeded inholdings and structures (wildland urban interface or WUI) within the drainage.

### Ferris Mountain Range

Vegetation treatments have been slower to develop in the Ferris Mountain range due to additional and different resource concerns. To offset this, extremely valuable habitat developments and improvements such as 4 new wildlife guzzlers installed on the mountain and significant wildfire activity have improved habitat conditions for bighorn sheep, mule deer, and elk on the mountain. In fall 2011 a managed wildfire on the south side of the mountain was allowed to burn until extinguished by fall weather. The 2012 Ferris wildfire during the height of a historic drought was managed under a full suppression strategy. Between the two, much of the eastern quarter of the range was treated. Four wildlife guzzlers were installed to provide water sources on the spine of the mountain range. Several riparian drainages on the north side of the mountain were prepared for broadcast burning by “slashing” conifers to create a fuel bed. In 2013, 2014, and 2016 south and east facing slopes were treated for cheatgrass associated with fire activities.

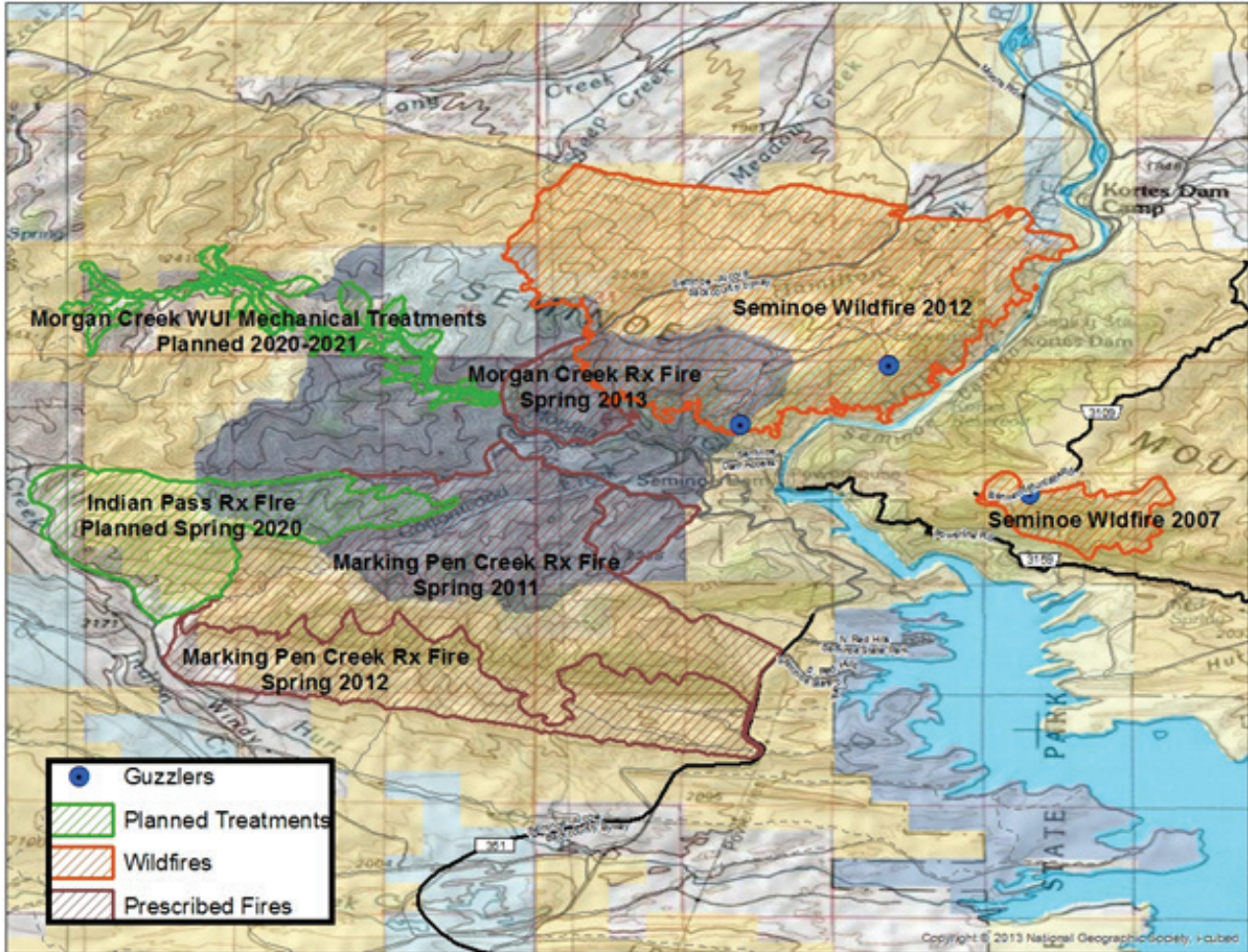
Planned management actions center on treating additional acreage through broadcast burning on the mountain itself and at its base. The riparian drainages prepared by cutting are planned to be treated with early summer prescribed fire. Working into the wind from the 2012 wildfire area, between 3,000 and 5,000 acres of timbered slopes will be targeted with prescribed fire in

a late fall application. The planned prescribed fire activities are currently being analyzed for approval under an Environmental Assessment.

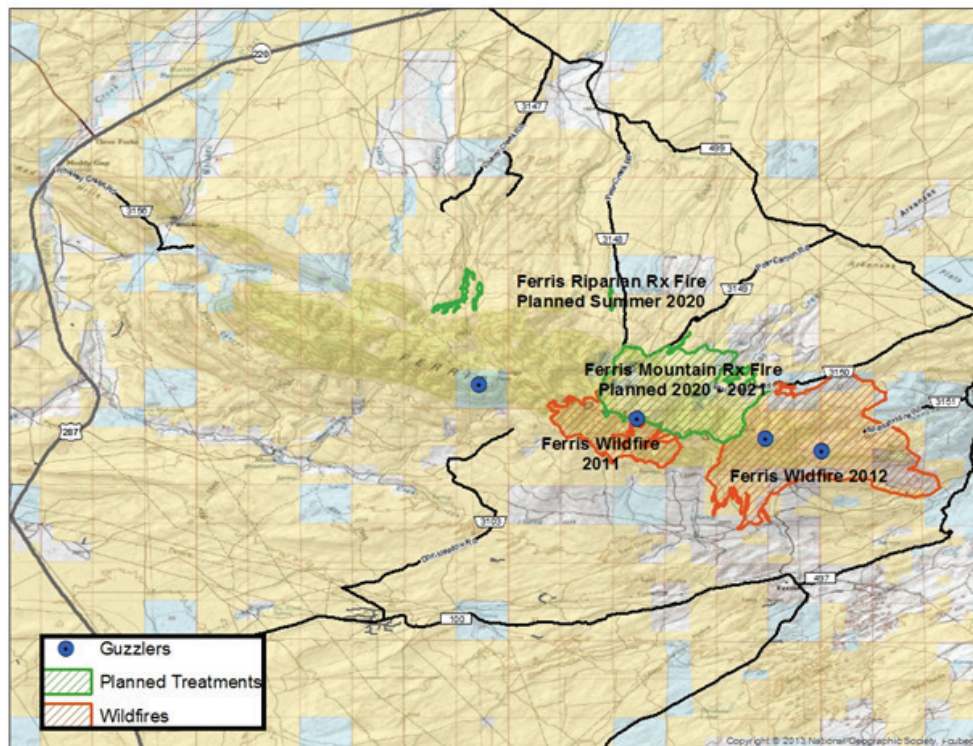
Both Ferris and Seminoe mountain ranges are the subject of intense habitat and vegetation monitoring to ensure that current conditions and planned actions are beneficial to the multiple uses in the area. Both mountain ranges also continue to be targeted for aerial cheatgrass treatments. Application of herbicide scheduled for fall of 2019 is being postponed until spring/fall 2020 in order to shift the work to the Pedro Mountains which burned just this fall, and also to avoid impacts to the hunting public.

Partners in all of the treatments, improvements, and habitat work on both mountain ranges include the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, USDI Bureau of Land Management, USDI Bureau of Reclamation, deeded landowners and grazing permittees (ID Ranch, Ferris Mountain Ranch, Pathfinder Ranch, Stone Ranch), United States Forest Service, Rawlins Fire Department, Carbon County Fire Department, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Wyoming Muley Fanatics, Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust, Mule Deer Foundation, Carbon County Weed and Pest, Saratoga Encampment Rawlins Conservation District, Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative, Wyoming State Forestry and State Land Board, and of course, key resources including funding, time, and labor from Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation and its dedicated members. Thank You!

# GRANT IN AID UPDATES



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# GRANT IN AID UPDATES

## Managing Pack Goat Use on the Shoshone National Forest

Andrew Pils, Wildlife Biologist

Shoshone National Forest, Cody Wyoming

The Shoshone National Forest supports the majority of habitat for the Absaroka and Whiskey Mountain bighorn sheep herds. They are the largest herds in Wyoming, and the recreational, cultural, and economic values associated with these herds through hunting, outfitting, photography, and wildlife watching are tremendous. In addition, these herds were classified as core, native herds in Wyoming. They have never been augmented with sheep from other areas and are the highest priority for management by the Wyoming Game & Fish Department (WGFD). Unfortunately, both herds are currently below management objectives which has resulted in significant reductions in bighorn sheep hunting opportunity in Wyoming and concerns over the long-term future of these herds.

The susceptibility of bighorn sheep to respiratory disease is well known. Domestic sheep may carry a variety of pathogens that can be transmitted to bighorn sheep with highly lethal consequences. Less certain is the potential for domestic goats, including those used for recreational packing, to transmit pathogens to bighorn sheep that result in catastrophic die-offs. However, several studies have found that domestic goats can be carriers of the same pathogens that are currently believed to be important in causing bighorn sheep pneumonia outbreaks. While there are indications that pathogens harbored by domestic goats may be less potent to bighorn sheep compared to those of domestic sheep origin, there are still many unknowns and concerns regarding the disease transmission risk they may pose to bighorn sheep.

Shoshone National Forest staff began working on a revised Forest Plan

in 2005. As part of the process, an assessment of domestic sheep grazing and domestic goat use on the Forest in relation to bighorn sheep was conducted. The assessment concluded that domestic sheep grazing posed little or no risk to the Whiskey Mountain and Absaroka herds, because there are only two domestic sheep grazing allotments permitted on the Shoshone and they are located far from occupied habitat for these core, native bighorn sheep herds. The assessment did identify that recreational pack goat use was occurring within Whiskey Mountain bighorn sheep range, and that pack goat use in such areas posed a potential disease transmission risk to the most important bighorn sheep herds in Wyoming. Because of this risk, and because the Forest Plan was not yet completed, the Forest implemented a Special Order in 2011 prohibiting pack goat use on four of the five ranger districts on the Forest. This encompassed almost all of the occupied habitat for the Whiskey Mountain and Absaroka herds on the Shoshone.

In 2015, the Revised Forest Plan was finalized, which provided direction to continue implementing the 2011 pack goat closure order. Shortly thereafter, the North American Packgoat Association (NAPGA) and Idaho Woolgrowers Association sued the Forest Service over the Forest Plan decision because they objected to the risk assessment that formed the basis for the pack goat closure. A settlement agreement resulted in which the Forest Service was ordered to revise the risk assessment and prepare a Supplemental EIS (SEIS) specific to domestic sheep and goat use on the

Shoshone.

In 2017, the draft risk assessment and SEIS were released for public comment. During this time, a dialogue was initiated among members of NAPGA, WGFD, and the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation (WY-WSF) regarding options that would provide more opportunity for pack goat use on the Shoshone while still minimizing the risk of disease transmission to core, native bighorn sheep herds. We are very grateful to the people who were willing to sit down with each other and work out a solution to this potentially intractable situation! It resulted in a mutually agreeable alternative being submitted to the Forest Service for consideration. The Forest Service incorporated this alternative nearly verbatim in the Record of Decision signed in December 2018.

In 2019, the old pack goat closure order was rescinded and replaced with an order that implements the new decision. Under the new order, pack goat use is prohibited within all occupied habitat for the Whiskey Mountain and Absaroka herds. Outside of occupied habitat for these bighorn sheep herds, four areas are identified where pack goat use is allowed (Figure 1). However, pack goat users must still apply for and receive a permit before using their pack goats in these areas. The permit system implements key parts of the decision including the need for disease testing and health inspection of pack goats before they are brought to the Forest, establishes a May 31-October 31 season of use for pack goats, and requires special pack goat handling practices to minimize the risk of



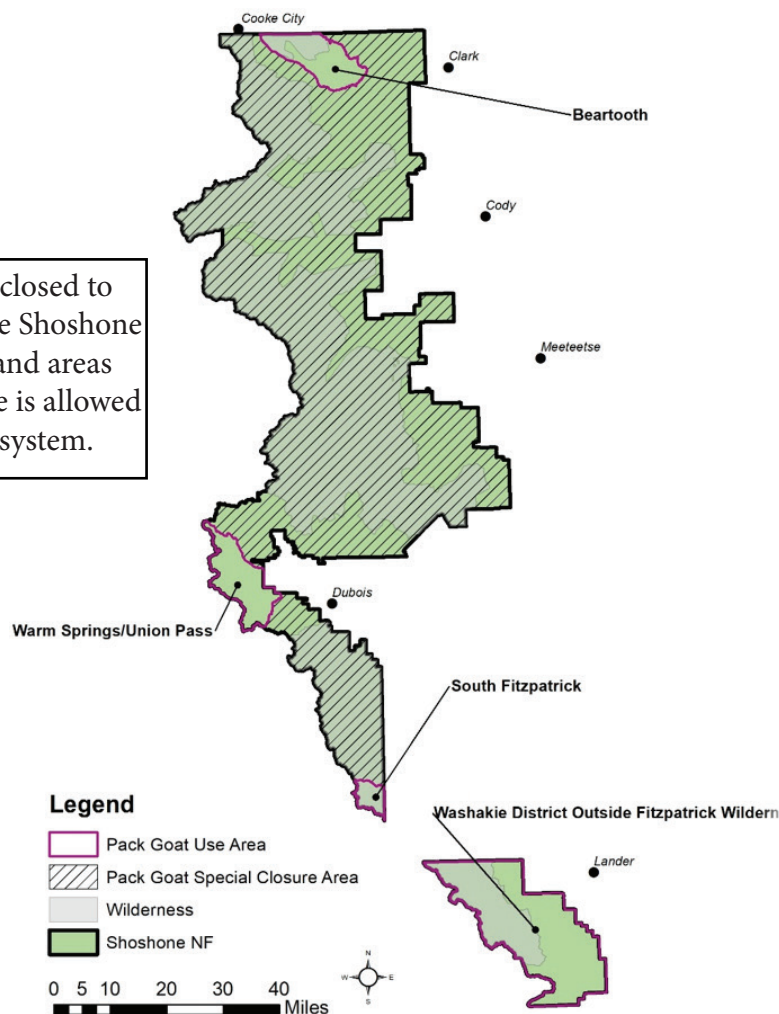
# GRANT IN AID UPDATES

contact with bighorn sheep. Once again, the WY-WSF helped out with a potentially difficult piece of implementing the decision. Steve Kilpatrick helped bring together a group of NAPGA members as well as several bighorn sheep disease experts and WGFD employees to formulate a recommended disease testing and veterinary health inspection protocol to the Shoshone National Forest. We largely adopted the recommendations for the protocol that is now a requirement for obtaining a pack goat use permit on the Shoshone National Forest. Those who are interested in learning more about current management of pack goats, including how to acquire a pack goat use permit on the Shoshone National Forest, can visit this website: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/id=FSEPRD645983>.

Ultimately, the Forest Service decided that the Whiskey Mountain and Absaroka herds are so important that a conservative approach was warranted to minimize the risk of disease transmission from pack goats to bighorn sheep. We believe the decision will successfully minimize that risk, while still providing opportunities for pack goat use in areas where core native bighorn sheep herds won't be at risk. The Shoshone is the first national forest to implement a permit system for pack goat use to minimize disease transmission risk, which could be a model for use on other national forests facing similar issues. Finally, we recognize the important part the WY-WSF played at several key points in the process that allowed a good outcome to be realized.



Figure 1. Areas closed to pack goat use on the Shoshone National Forest, and areas where pack goat use is allowed under a permit system.



# GRANT IN AID UPDATES

## The “Ram’Blin Ewe Haul”

By Daryl Lutz

Y’all done it again.....that is you helped to fund another great project to keep sheep on the mountain!! The original “Ewe Haul” trailer Wyoming Game and Fish Department has been using for decades to transport and transplant bighorn sheep has deteriorated to the point it needed to be replaced. And replaced it was!!

This Titan stock trailer was custom made to the following specifications developed by WY-WSF members and WGFD personnel:

- Goose neck stock trailer – Aluminum or Steel
- 20 ft. “deck” length X 7.5 ft. width
- 7’ side walls
- Full height divider (stud stall) floor to ceiling with ability to move at 8’ and 16’ intervals.
- Sliding ½ width (36”) door in the divider similar to that in the rear door.
- Ventilation on upper 1/3 of side walls covered with expanded metal and plexi-glass inserts (removable).
- Roof vents
- Full rear door with ½ door slider
- Side man door on front driver’s side
- Goose neck storage with outside access doors
- Interior lights
- Outside lights – both sides and rear
- Two surveillance cameras – one for the ram section and ewe/lamb section
- Rubber floor mats throughout
- 1/4” thick rubberized interior side walls – 3’ height
- Minimum 16” load rated “E” or 10 ply rated tires.
- Torsion axles
- Brakes on both axles
- 2 spare tires mounted with tire changing ramp
- Truck bed-liner on front of trailer and inside wheel wells
- 

It is well built with ample room to transfer 20 - 30 sheep and includes several features that will ensure the safety of the sheep and the people handling them. For example, each section of the trailer (for ewes and rams) has a monitoring camera that can be viewed from the towing vehicle via Bluetooth (gotta love technology). The ventilation sections in the upper walls are covered with expanded metal and removable plexi-glass windows. And of course ample lighting both inside and out for working in low light conditions.

As you can see the trailer is darn good lookin’ with photo wraps done by Jerry Galles and his talented staff at Bar-D signs in Casper..... Thanks Jerry!!

Photos on the trailer were acquired from Mark Gocke, Amy Anderson and from Bill Sincavage, Jakey’s Fork Photography.

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department and the future passengers of the “Ram’Blin Ewe Haul” are grateful to the Wyoming Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation, the Wyoming Governor’s Big Game License Coalition, Central Truck and Diesel Inc. in Casper, Titan Trailer Manufacturing Inc., Bar-D Signs, Mark Gocke, and Jakey’s Fork Photography.



# GRANT IN AID UPDATES

## Ferris/Seminole Sheep and the Pedro Mountains

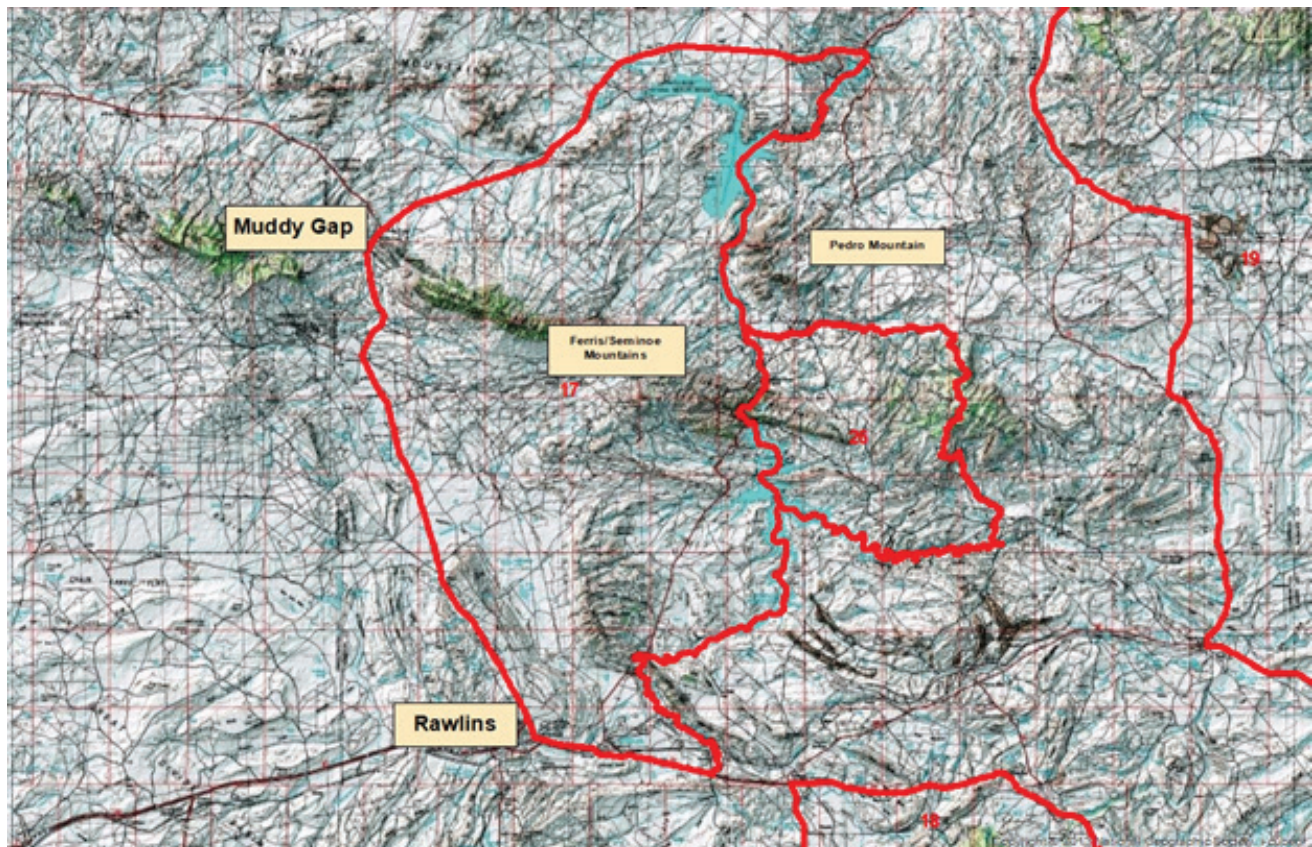
By Daryl Lutz

On Sunday, February 9th, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department coordinated the collaring of ten bighorn sheep (6 ewes and 4 rams) in the Ferris-Seminole Herd Unit. Bighorn sheep near the Miracle Mile in the Seminoes and on the east side of the River in the Bennett Mountains were collared in response to the recent Pedro Mountain fire that engulfed over 20,000 acres near the Seminole and Bennett Mountains. As the landscape recovers from fire it may result in ideal bighorn sheep forage areas with grassy, rocky slopes free of timber. These areas are outside of the Herd Unit and in locations where WGFD does not manage for or desire bighorn sheep due to potential disease concerns. The fire and likely subsequent improved forage may increase the likelihood these bighorn sheep

will wander and mingle with domestic sheep. This potential interaction could result in bighorn sheep acquiring harmful pathogens that cause diseases such as pneumonia. These diseases can lead to significant mortality in bighorn sheep. The new GPS collars will give managers prompt warning if any collared sheep move north toward the Pedro Mountains so that preventative measures can be employed to prevent disease transmission and/or interactions with domestic sheep. WGFD personnel are working cooperatively with area sheep producers in the event bighorn sheep wander near their domestic flocks. A great example of collaboration between livestock producers and wildlife managers.

Since February 9th, the collared bighorn sheep have stayed near the Miracle Mile or in the broken country south and east of the Kortez Road. We hope they stay there.

The bighorn sheep were captured, collared, and sampled for pathogens by Native Range personnel who, as always, did an outstanding job! These deployed collars will also provide additional knowledge of bighorn sheep habitat use, movement patterns, and disease/pathogen status. This will be particularly good data to have especially in the Bennett Mountain portion of the herd unit. This project was funded by the Wyoming Outdoor Weekend, the Wyoming Governor's Big Game License Coalition, and the Wyoming Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation – Thanks to all!!!



# GRANT IN AID UPDATES

## Encampment Sheep Capture by Teal Cufade, WY G&F

Between 1976 and 1989, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) trans located more than 80 bighorn sheep from Whiskey Mountain to the Encampment River herd. Following these trans locations, the Encampment River bighorn sheep population grew rapidly

causes of the decline and to isolate factors that continue to limit population growth in the Encampment River herd. This small population of bighorn sheep is coveted by the public, landowners, and sportsmen. The sheep often frequent the steep hillsides of the North Fork

herd unit highly desirable. In 2018 and 2019, the herd was sampled for diseases as part of the statewide bighorn sheep herd health surveillance study, and several sheep were collared with Global Positioning System collars to learn about the herd's habitat use. Due to failing collars



and loss of sheep from natural factors, only two active GPS collars remained by fall 2019. Biologists needed a larger sample of collared sheep to make any statistically valid assessments of habitat selection and movement patterns. So in February 2020, an additional 10 ewes were captured, disease sampled, and fitted with GPS collars. Two ewes with malfunctioning collars were recaptured and

and peaked at approximately 150 individuals in 1982. The harsh winter of 1983-84 likely stimulated a population decline. Currently, there are approximately 60 bighorn sheep in the herd. The herd faces a number of challenges including disease, predation, competition, habitat succession, and human disturbances. Wildlife managers have struggled to identify the

Encampment River, making them visible from Highway 70. Hunting opportunities have been offered for rams in this herd unit every other year for the past decade, in combination within the Douglas Creek herd. The Encampment River bighorn sheep herd has a reputation for producing great quality rams, making an opportunity to hunt within the

had their collars replaced. The collars will collect GPS location data every hour for three years and store the data on the collar. Real-time GPS location data will be collected every day and is transmitted via satellite every five days to a biologist's computer. The collars are equipped with breakaway mechanisms that will automatically release them from the ewes in November 2022.

# GRANT IN AID UPDATES

Each collar will transmit its final location, allowing biologists to retrieve the collar and download the animal's hourly locations for the previous three years. If a sheep dies before the collar falls off, the collar will emit a mortality signal. At this point, biologists will go into the field, find the carcass, perform a field necropsy and collect important samples to submit to the WGFD veterinary lab. The fine-scale movement data collected from the collars will help delineate annual variation in seasonal movements, habitat selection and resource use. Without understanding habitat selection patterns, it is difficult to plan and prioritize effective habitat enhancements to increase population resilience. These analyses will help biologists determine the habitat characteristics that bighorn sheep select under different environmental contexts and facilitate resource-use comparisons with other more productive herds. In addition, the work will help inform the goals and placement of future habitat enhancement projects in the herd unit. During bighorn sheep captures, all efforts are made to ensure the safety and survival of captured animals. Captures are done between December and mid-March to avoid the bighorn sheep breeding season (October-late November) and lambing season, which occurs about mid-May. The most common method to capture a large number of bighorn sheep is via helicopter net-gun. The Game and Fish Department contracted with Native Range Capture Services to perform the net-gun capturing. The crew uses a helicopter to locate the sheep in their rugged and remote habitat, then the pilot positions the helicopter close to the herd

and a net gunner shoots a 6-foot square net over one of the animals.

outbreaks, survivors often carry the bacteria and transmit



If a bighorn sheep shows signs of excessive exertion during the chase the crews will abort the chase. Once a bighorn sheep is in the net it is fitted with a blindfold and hobbled. It is then carefully lifted and delivered to a nearby staging area. At the staging area, WGFD biologists, veterinarians, and volunteers collect disease samples and fit the bighorn sheep with a GPS collar and ear tags. The sheep are then moved away from the staging area and released. Post-capture, biologists will be closely monitoring the collared individuals to see that they make it back to their capture locations. Since 2012, the WGFD has been conducting statewide bighorn sheep herd health surveillance. Biologists hope to identify respiratory pathogens that are known to affect bighorn sheep, as well as other factors, such as trace minerals or nutrition, which may influence how one herd may do better than others when infected with the same pathogens. Pathogen transmission can cause disease events and long-term lamb mortality. Following

disease to lambs in subsequent years, causing lamb death and poor lamb survival for years. For the past three years, teacher Jordan Seitz at Encampment School has had his students involved with the bighorn sheep capture and collar efforts. The students learn about bighorn sheep ecology, the history of the Encampment herd, and about the types of habitat that bighorn sheep need. The students also take field trips to look for collared bighorn sheep, learn about radio telemetry, and study bighorn sheep habitat. Then the students join Game and Fish personnel during the bighorn sheep capture project. The success of the Encampment River bighorn sheep project relied on the participation of local landowners willing to allow the Game and Fish Department to capture bighorn sheep on their property, as well as set up staging locations. Their cooperation is very much appreciated. Also, the collars for this project were purchased with Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation Grant-In Aid funds, so many thanks for their support.

# GRANT IN AID UPDATES

## Hands On Wildlife Management by Jordan Seitz, Encampment K12 Teacher



**Shannon Craig:** “Such a cool experience, I had an adrenaline rush the whole time! I felt like we were involved in a fragile part of life; something so important that made me feel happy that these animals are in such safe hands! All the people who were there genuinely care for these incredible creatures!!”

### STUDENT QUOTES:

**Aspen Boxberger:** “I love the outdoor field trips we’ve been doing this year, but the sheep capture was my favorite. It was the best experience of all the trips and it was the best day ever!”

Students, parents, and other local volunteers, had the opportunity in early February to help Biologists CuFaude and Cheesbrough, and their fellow Game and Fish employees with the third capture of ewes from the Encampment River bighorn sheep herd. Thanks to grant-in-aid money donated by the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation, ten more collars were placed around ewe necks. There were two sheep from 2017 running around like ghosts and wearing defective collars, but they finally met a mugger’s net and got the old collars swapped out for new ones. This means we have 12 total collars gathering data and additional health samples are getting processed at the lab!

### ADULT QUOTES:

**Jordan Seitz:** “I’m thrilled that my students, and some parents and community members, could once again work shoulder to shoulder with G&F experts with this hand-on component of wildlife management. It literally makes the connection between humans, animals, and the land come alive. Two new things we learned from the muggers is that they capture and collar animals around the country from wolves to moose and their net-gun is a machine-shop modified T/C single shot pistol shooting .308 blanks!”



# GRANT IN AID UPDATES



**Regin Stewart:** “The sheep capture was so fun and a great experience. It was so cool seeing the helicopter flying in with the sheep.”

**Madi Dunning:** “I think the sheep capture was a once in a lifetime experience and I’m so happy I got to take part in it. I’m also happy I got to help preserve the Encampment River sheep herd.”

**Kelli Ramiller:** “It was a unique experience and it was fun and really cool to be able to do it!”

Photo Credits: Jordan Seitz and Shannon Craig



# GRANT IN AID UPDATES

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



collars on Devils Canyon rams and ewes respectively. These collars are programmed to collect location data in real-time every 6 hours and are estimated to function for a minimum of 3.5 years. This is the first time that a movement analysis has occurred within this herd since the last transplant occurred in 2006.

In addition to collaring, 22 of the captured 27 sheep were sampled for respiratory pathogens. Nasal and tonsil swabs were analyzed for the presence of respiratory pathogens by culture and polymerase chain reaction (PCR). Results were consistent with recent sampling efforts where the three most prevalent pathogens detected were *Mannheimia haemolytica*, *Pasteurella multocida*, and *Mannheimia glucosida*. Fortunately *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* has still yet to be detected within the Devils Canyon bighorn sheep.

This data will be used to monitor to lamb survival and subsequent recruitment through the biological year.

In December of 2019 the

**From** 2008 to 2016 the Devils Canyon sheep herd experienced exceptional reproductive rates averaging 53 lambs per 100 ewes and ranging from 47-60:100. However in 2017, 18, and 19 the population has seen poor lamb ratios of 32, 37, and 44 respectively. While this population is classified from the air in the middle of summer, it's difficult to identify exactly why this is happening or what this means for the population, especially when the data is collected when the lambs are only 3 months of age.

Abundance of sheep in the herd has also decreased in the last three years although much of that can be attributed to individuals removed for transplants. We monitor abundance using a trend or raw count from the air, to give managers a known minimum population. In 2019 we observed 143 sheep in roughly four hours

of flying. This brings the three year average to 154 sheep, which is below, but still within 20% of the 175 sheep objective set in 2015.

To gain insight into the future of Devils Canyon bighorns, the Wyoming chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation in conjunction with the Wyoming Governors Big Game License Coalition graciously awarded the WGFD the funding to GPS collar a proportion of ewes and rams within the herd.

In November of 2019 WGFD personnel deployed 7 and 20





# GRANT IN AID UPDATES

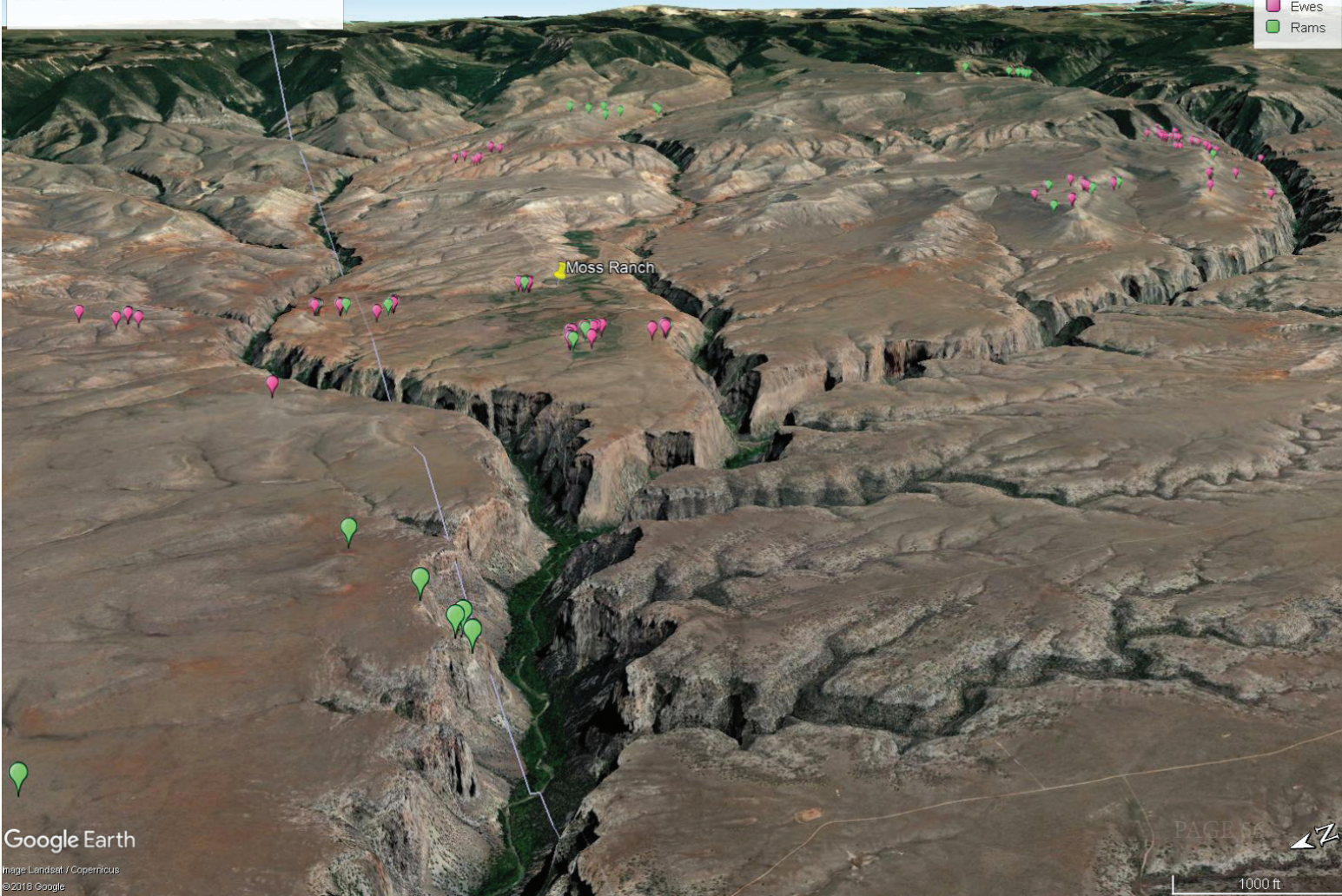
collared ewes were used to locate a larger sample (n=120) of sheep to efficiently conduct an aerial classification from helicopter. The results showed little change in the lamb ratios from our July (44:100) to December (46:100) counts, indicating high survival in that period. Continuing this effort into the spring will include deploying the remaining three ram collars, monitoring seasonal movements, and conducting a spring classification prior to lambing.

This work will be an integral component to keeping Devils Canyon Sheep on the mountain, and we at the Wyoming Game and Fish Department want to thank the Wyoming chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation for the opportunity.

Todd Caltrider, WY G&F sent this trail cam photo showing part of our Elk Mtn. herd on winter range near Newcastle.



Devils Canyon Collars 12/05-07



# GRANT IN AID UPDATES

## Finding the Fingerprint of Pneumonia in Bighorn Sheep

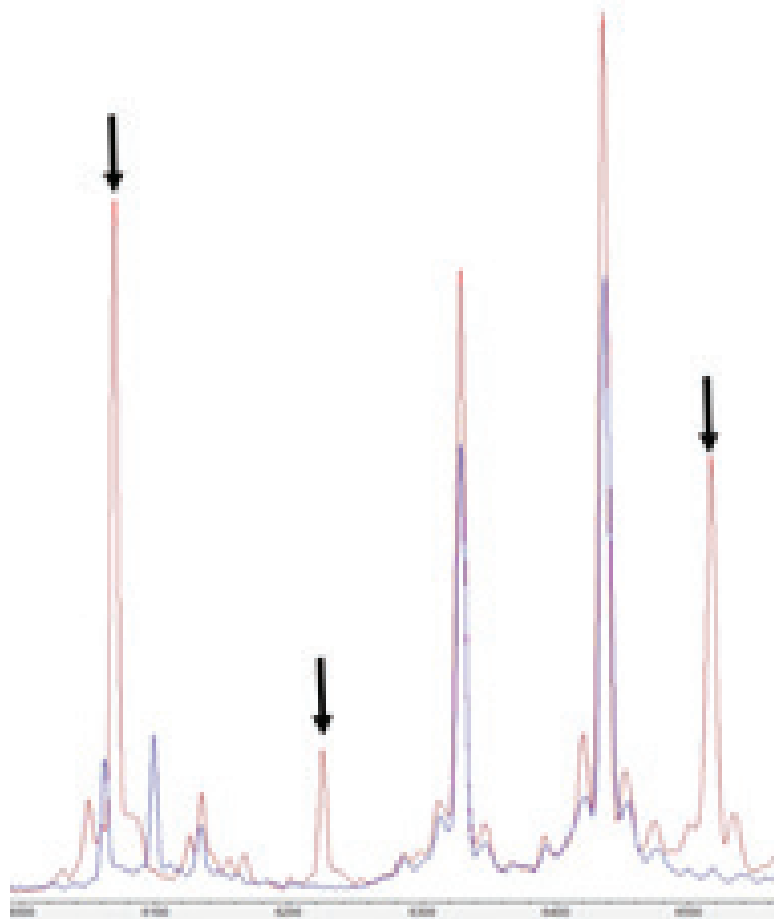
By Kerry Sondgeroth, University of Wyoming

**Problem:** Ongoing surveillance efforts for bacteria that cause pneumonia in bighorn sheep, has identified many of the same types of bacteria across multiple herds. One interpretation of this finding is that although the same types of bacteria are found in each herd, there may be certain characteristics of a bacteria that make it more likely to cause pneumonia within a particular herd. This could explain why certain herd units recover more quickly from pneumonia outbreaks (such as the Jackson herd), while others do not (such as the Whiskey Mountain herd).

**Progress:** Working with the Wyoming Game and Fish Wildlife Health Laboratory, and using bacteria isolated from many different bighorn sheep herd units, we can apply new technology to fine tune the identification of bacteria. Our research began with the Mannheimia species, which is a family of bacteria that has been associated with pneumonia in numerous bighorn sheep herds. For each bacteria isolate, we obtain their “fingerprint” using technology called mass spectrometry. Different species of Mannheimia have different mass spectrometry fingerprints, and we can associate a certain fingerprint with bighorn sheep herd health. While two herds may be infected with Mannheimia, the fingerprints may be different between the two herds. This is significant as certain bacterial fingerprints may be associated with the ability to cause pneumonia within a particular herd.

**In Figure 1,** we show two fingerprints of Mannheimia. The fingerprint A is from Jackson (blue), and fingerprint B is from Whiskey Mountain (red). While there are similarities, we focus on the differences (arrows), as that makes the fingerprints unique from one another. These differences are used to fine tune bacterial identification, and we use these fingerprints in our bighorn sheep bacterial pathogen database. This allows us to identify any Mannheimia species of bacteria

found in bighorn sheep in a timely and cost effective manner. For future implications, individual animals can be screened for the pneumonia “fingerprint” bacteria. If the pneumonia “fingerprint” is found, management decisions could be made that decrease the transmission of this higher risk “fingerprint” to other sheep in the herd in order to better preserve overall herd health.



**Figure 1. Bacterial fingerprint of Mannheimia from Jackson (blue) and Whiskey Mountain (red)**

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# GRANT IN AID UPDATES

## Joint Community Outreach Meeting is held in Lander.

Lander Public Meeting  
On February 19, 2020 The Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation, National Bighorn Sheep Interpretive Center and Water for Wildlife Foundation

spoke to a group of Lander folks about their conservation and education efforts across Wyoming and the West. The information sharing meeting was designed for a mixed age group and attracted several families. Sandwiches and drinks were provided and almost everyone received a door prize! Steve Kilpatrick addressed the general status of wild sheep in Wyoming and many projects which WY-

WSF is funding and supporting. Historically, there were 10s of thousands in Wyoming, but numbers declined to about 2,500 by 1965. With millions of dollars invested, numbers came back to about 6,500 by 1990. However, numbers have slipped again in the past few years and now there are only 5,000-5,500 in Wyoming. Pneumonia related lethal pathogens originating from domestic sheep and goats seems to be the primary cause of declines. Losses in habitat quality and fragmentation likely contributors as well. The Wyoming Game and Fish Dept.

spends around \$2.3M/yr on the bighorn program, but brings in less than \$200K through bighorn tags. The shortfall is made up by using profits gained from elk, deer and antelope. However, there



is still a shortfall which groups like WY-WSF, the Governors Big Game License Coalition and Water For Wildlife Foundation. Over \$4.3M has been generated for bighorn projects in the past few years by WY-WSF and others. Steve reviewed the major bighorn sheep projects receiving funding from the above organizations and occurring in Wyoming. Sara Domek and Karen Sullivan, of the National Bighorn Sheep Center provided an excellent update about their organization's education and outreach programs. The partnership among the Sheep Center, WY WSF and national

WSF has grown tremendously in the past few years. In 2019, the Center reached 12,950 youth at special outreach events, during guided tours at the Center, with education trunk outreach and in classrooms. Over 6,800 visitors from around the world visited the Center in 2019, and the Center also hosted over 40 special events including Camp Bighorn. With the Center focused on its mission to education people about bighorn sheep and the conservation of wildlife and wild lands, the focus of Sara and Karen's work is to inspire and educate with the goal of helping conserve bighorn sheep for future generations. The Water for Wildlife

Foundation is generously sponsoring a youth to attend Camp Bighorn this August 2-6, 2020, and several nominations for youth were received at the Lander public meeting. The winning youth nominee will be selected by the end of April when camp registrations are due. If you are interested in nominating a youth for the Water for Wildlife Foundation Camp Bighorn sponsorship, please contact Sara or Karen with the National Bighorn Sheep Center. Vickie Hutchinson reviewed The Water for Wildlife Foundation's emphasis on the development

# GRANT IN AID UPDATES

## Future direction:

To date, over 90 fingerprints from *Mannheimia* species have been created for our bighorn sheep bacterial pathogen database. We will continue to analyze these “fingerprints” in association with other information about herd health and performance. As this important research continues, other types of bacteria associated with pneumonia including *Pasteurella multocida*, *Bibersteinia trehalosi*, and *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* will be used to expand the pathogen database as well as our knowledge and understanding of pneumonia in bighorn sheep



Figure 2. University of Wyoming PhD student, Chris Anderson, collecting a nasal swab from a ewe. The swabs are used to check for bacteria that cause pneumonia.

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# GRANT IN AID UPDATES



of supplemental water resources in selected areas where both the habitat and wildlife are being impaired by lack of water. They have invested in over 500 water projects in twelve western states, including guzzlers for bighorns in Wyoming. These crucial water sources sustain both wild game and non-game animals including songbirds, raptors, waterfowl, fish, and many more. Our charitable goals are to create awareness of increased pressure on water resources necessary for the continued sustenance of wildlife and to increase the availability of water for all wildlife in remote and arid regions of our country. We are currently planning similar meetings in additional Wyoming communities. Please contact Steve Kilpatrick (307-413-7249) or Sara Domek (307-455-3429) if you wish to have similar presentations and / or assist within your community.



# “Moose Adventure-2019”

By Kurt Eisenach

More than just an adventure hunt, my Alaska bull moose trip of 2019 was a family bucket list experience.

The trip was to take place in 2018 but cancer and a knee replacement put it off for a year. My wife and I had purchased a large travel trailer upon retirement, and this seemed to be the best place to break it in. We planned and schemed the route from Wyoming to Alaska and picked our must stop locations. I booked a charter fishing trip for salmon and halibut in Prince Rupert, B.C. We did Glacier, Banff and Jasper parks on the way up. The trip was everything we had hoped, and the fishing was great. The fishing was so great, we had a hard time catching halibut that were small enough to keep. This part of the trip could fill a book with pictures and memories. After three weeks of travel and a couple extra days in Whitehorse, Yukon for repairs, I was putting Juanita on a plane in Anchorage bound for Sheridan.

Now I was ready to start the hunting part of this adventure.

Next was a scenic drive from Anchorage to Sterling where I parked the trailer at my outfitters house and repacked for our bush flight. Richard Moran of Extreme Adventures was my outfitter, guide and companion for this adventure. You have seen his spring brown bear hunts on our last two banquets and will see a fall brown bear hunt on this one. Richard showed exceptional diligence about the details before we went into the bush, so I knew I was in great hands. We had a nice visit the next day during the drive to Talkeetna to meet the float plane. His stories about Air force life in Alaska and his work with planes put me at ease about who we would be flying with. The stories flowed and we hit it off as two bow hunters would.

Weather was good and the float plane flight a joy. Before I knew it, we were floating out of the lake we landed in and down a salmon filled stream to our moose area. The trip

was going off without a hitch and we saw our first moose later that day.

We set up camp on a sand bar and enjoyed the first of many great meals. No freeze dried on this trip. Richard had prepared and frozen all manner of wonderful dishes. The days rolled by with a big bull we could not judge legal on the 3rd day, broadside at 40 yds. Then we saw several smaller bulls and some days with nothing. We hunted hard but smart every day, and only the small bits of bad luck were protecting the moose from a sharp stick. Bulls that were too small, big bulls that would not show themselves, winds that shifted at the wrong moment; all hunters know the routine.

We were down to the last day. As we got ready to leave camp that morning, I debated using my rifle but declined and stuck with the bow. I was attaching my bow to my pack when Rich came up from the river's edge whispering, "Bull, Bull!" A huge 65" bull, with everything you could want was crossing the river to our side, right at camp. He beached 105 yards below camp and started towards us. After 15 yards, he turned into the brush and would not come out. We called him and continued to call him. But he grew tired of looking for the cow he could not find so he wandered off. Two hours later, back at camp, we gathered our gear and I debated my decision over and over. Rich's loaded 338 was right at my feet when that bull was 100 yards away. It took a while, but I accepted the results and we decided to have a cup of coffee before continuing our day. Believe it or not, as I was attaching the bow to my pack, Richard came up from the river again whispering, "Bull, Bull!" Another Alaskan monster was crossing the river right at camp. He was closer and Richard called him right

across. With 4 points on one side and over 50" wide I knew he was legal. As he crossed the sand bar in front of me at 30 yards, I knew he was in trouble. At the hit, the moose spun and ran back into the river. As he crossed the icy, fast running water, we both gave him all the encouragement we could hoping he would reach the other bank. As he walked out the other side and fell for his final time, we both started laughing and staring at each other.

Did that really just happen? It took a while to soak in, but a huge 15-yard pack trip and a moose on the final day were ours. If the bull had gone down in the river, I don't know if we could have recovered him. At the end of that day, all we had left was an exciting white-water float through class four rapids and one more night camping. We only broke one paddle and went off a 6-foot waterfall backwards during the float. The abundant bears did not bother us at camp that final night, and I had a great time. That is right up until I slipped in the river rocks and broke my ankle. Richard handled it like the pro he is, and we floated out the final day without incident.

Seriously consider Richard and his service if you have an Alaskan bucket list to fill. He handles all the hunts himself.



# “25 Years in the Making”

By Maureen O’Leary and Armond Acri

My dream to hunt caribou started over 25 years ago, after I ate Caribou medallions. Well, it took a bit longer than I thought. After much research, I decided on a horseback hunt where I could bring all the meat home. Armond agreed to go. B C Safaris had openings this year, so we booked a September 11-22 hunt in the Northern British Columbia Wilderness.

## Sept 11

After spending the night in Dease Lake, we flew around 40 miles to the main lodge on Turnagain Lake, dropped off some supplies and then flew 18 miles to our cabin on Serpentine Lake. I was amazed looking down on the wild country with steep rocky hills and lots of water. We unloaded our gear and waited for the guides to arrive. Armond set up his spotting scope and checked out the nearby ridges. Within 15 minutes he found a small herd of caribou. The guides Jay and Pete, both from New Zealand, arrived and informed us a grizzly had killed a cow moose less than a half mile from the cabin and only 100 yards from the trail.

## Sept 12

We rode up the valley past the grizzly, across the river and uphill through thick evergreens and buck brush that hit you in the face while on your horse to where we saw the caribou the night before. After glassing for a while, the guides spotted a small herd bedded right at tree line. We rode close to where we had spotted them and dismounted. Oh no, we spooked 2 small bulls that head toward other group. My heart sank, thinking the group would run off. We sneaked along the trees for about 100 yards; the bull was walking uphill, but there were other caribou behind him; no shot. Finally, he was broadside and clear. I shot once at 275 yards and the bull took off downhill, hit hard. We found him down about 400 yards away. WOW I did it! It was barely after lunch and Armond started thinking “this might be pretty easy.” We butchered

the animal and left most of the meat to cool on the mountain side. We rode off to another spot to glass for more caribou. We saw 2 nice Stone sheep rams. Heading back, we stopped to pick up the back straps, sirloins and I attached a strobe light to my shooting sticks over the rest of the meat. We would return the next day with pack animals for the rest. On way back to camp, the bear was still there, but he did not charge.

## Sept 13

We got up and daybreak and



discovered all the horses were gone, except for the one that was tied to the rail overnight. Pete took off on the remaining horse to look for them. He ended up having to ride 18 miles back to the main lodge. While we were waiting for Pete to return, we used the boat that was stored by the cabin to explore. It got dark and there was still no sign of Pete or the horses. Pete showed up around 10:30 that night. He was pretty worked up when he got there since the bear had charged him in the dark. He only had 7 of the 10 horses we started out with. I am worried that wolves and bears will have eaten my caribou.

## Sept 14

The ride up to tree line to retrieve my caribou went through deep bogs and heavy brush. The caribou was undisturbed, so we decided to glass a

bit. At the other end of the valley, we found a herd of around 18 caribou. There was one good sized bull, but he did not have the required 5 points on top. We could see a huge bull moose on a willow flat below us. We also saw some more Stone sheep rams. On the way back we stopped to pick up the meat, rack, and cape from my bull. Riding out, we were treated to a rainbow pointing towards our camp and ending between the rack attached to Pete’s backpack.

## Sept 15

We rode almost 19 miles— a long day in the saddle. On the way up the mountain, we passed a nice bull moose, and a cow caribou with her calf, but did not see any bulls. On our return to camp, we discovered that a pack of wolves had displaced the grizzly bear from the moose carcass. We tried to get close enough for a shot,

but were not successful.

## Sept 16

We woke up to a foggy morning with blue skies overhead. That was a nice change since the previous days had been a series of rain showers and wind. We rode in the opposite direction today, up to a Jade mine on the mountain above us. Just as we approached the mine, we spotted a nice-sized bull crossing a ridge downwind of us. There was not enough time to determine if he was legal, but we decided to ride ahead a bit to see if he would stop. Jay and I dismounted and took off across a scree slope hoping he would stop after he crossed a ridge. As we approach the spot where he disappeared, Jay looked down and noticed the bull swimming across the lake, about ½ miles below us. As I crossed the scree slope, I



forgot about all my aches and pains. We got back to the horses and had a cold and windy ride to the top of the mountain. From our vantage point, we could see several small groups of caribou. Most were small bulls, but none were legal.

### **Sept 17**

Before breakfast I spotted a young bull caribou on a ridge where I had seen them the first night, but he was not big enough to go after. We rode high up past the mine where it was once again cold and windy. We left the valley floor in pleasant temperatures, but had to put on all our warm clothes on the exposed ridge above the tree line. The guides spotted a big bull about 5 miles away. It was too far to tell if it was legal, but it was too late to go after him anyway.

### **Sept 18**

We decided to go back and look where Mo got her bull to see if any new animals had moved in. The weather

went downhill as we rode past where Mo had gotten hers to an overlook with a good vantage point. It started to rain hard and the wind picked up. At least it was not foggy, so we could still glass. We watched four Stone sheep on a far ridge and decided to ride up a steep slope across a low saddle that got us into a new drainage. As we rode down the drainage, we spotted two caribou, both young bulls. On the ride back to camp, we stopped to glass at one spot for about 10 minutes. Just as we are about to leave, a cow and calf caribou jumped up out of the buck brush 100 yards away.

### **Sept 19**

We headed back to the mine again in cold, windy and wet conditions. We were watching 3 small bull caribou in the valley below us when the guides spotted a small herd with 3 nice bulls. One was definitely legal. The descent was really steep and rocky, so Pete and Mo decided to stay up high and watch. Jay and I got within 500 yards

when the wind changed direction and blew from us to the caribou. Before we could react, the caribou were gone and we did not see them again. Snow was piling up on the ledges as we rode back uphill. By the time we got back up to Mo and Pete, the sun came out; it was a sucker hole. The rain resumed for our ride back to camp.

### **Sept 20**

Our last day became a lost day. Pete, Jay and I rode where we had seen the big bull yesterday, but we were in the clouds all day with poor visibility. We headed back to camp to prepare to fly out the next day. In 8 days we rode over 80 miles and gained over 13,000 feet in elevation.

### **Sept 21**

We flew to the main lodge and spent the night, meeting the rest of the crew, enjoying a cold beer and great food. It was an amazing, wonderful time which we may have to do again, so I can get a caribou. Jay and Pete were awesome guides and worked hard to get us our caribou.



Mo, Jay, Armond and Pete  
The Happy Gang



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# “There is No Half Way” by Zane Foust

**T**o some hunting is a weekend adventure; something you do to pass the cold winter months. To others, it is a passion, maybe a lifestyle. To me, Zane Foust and to many others like me, it was always an escape. It was an escape to a place that I loved, to get away from the hospital and the doctor’s office. My father Dave and I have hunted my entire life. Whether it was deer, ducks, or turkeys, I had always used hunting as my inspiration in life, to keep going; keep fighting.

At a young age I was diagnosed with Addison’s disease, polycystic kidney disease, and a pituitary tumor. I struggled with near death experiences, hard days and weeks affected my entire childhood and adolescent life, but hunting was always there to escape to. There wasn’t a time in my life, no matter how bad my health became, that I wasn’t begging my dad to go hunting and there wasn’t a time in my life when hunting didn’t make it all disappear for a short time.

I met Frank Maestri and his family through an Outdoor Dream Foundation mule deer hunt in Wyoming. Throughout the hunt, Frank and I began to talk about sheep hunting and how it was an ultimate dream and goal of mine. As we talked, I remember Frank telling me, “You’re going to go on a sheep hunt, Zane!” Two years later, Frank, my dad, and I were doing exactly that.

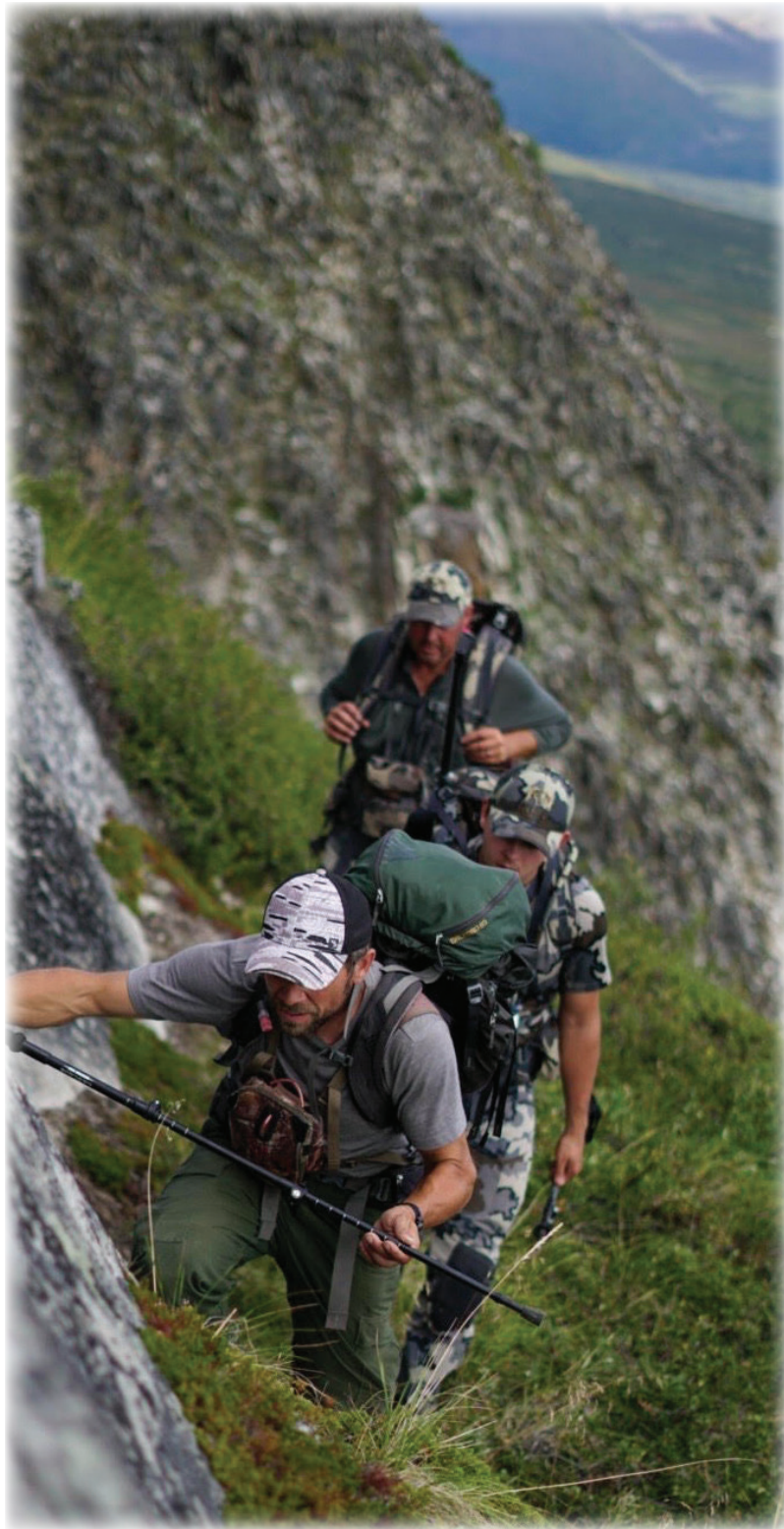
Packing lists and workout routines went out the window the minute we stepped on the float plane out of Whitehorse, Yukon. We flew into camp, met everyone, got settled into camp, and mentally prepared for the hunt. The next day, we loaded up the horses and headed out to find the sheep I had dreamt so much about. I could not believe that it was actually happening- I was hunting wild sheep, with some of the greatest people I know.

As we approached the mountain, we found a band of rams with a few ewes and lambs. “A couple

good rams in there,” said our guide Nate Olson. We made a game plan and tied the horses up to some cedar trees in the basin. 3,000 vertical feet and a couple miles later, we were on top of the mountain breathing hard and happy as could be. The rams spooked the next ridge; however, we were in heaven-in the Yukon chasing wild Dall sheep.

The next day, we made another laborious hike to a band of rams on another mountain. After many stops along the way and a few changes of socks, we found ourselves eighty yards from a group of great, full curl rams. We decided that the rams were not to the age limit that we were looking for. Although disappointed with the situation, no one could be down for too long. We found ourselves again, in a laughing fest on the side of the mountain, with sack lunches and blistered feet, ready for the next trudge up the mountain.

Day three, we decided to take camp on our back and make a different play on the rams we had been seeing each day from right outside camp. It seemed that they remained in a



general area every morning before the sun crested and reached them in their beds. We decided to take a day off horseback and hike to get to

a spot that we could set up and camp for the night, in anticipation that we would end up right where the sheep wanted to be when we awoke the following morning. After another long day of hiking through tundra hummocks and boulders, we ended up chasing a band of rams all the way around the mountain, finally setting up for a shot. We sat for an hour contemplating the ethicality of the shot and decided, due to the number of rams and the distance, that we should call it a night and hope

a snack. We talked possibilities, past hunts, and good times, when all of a sudden Nate whispered, "Get down!" Behind us, cresting the ridge about 700 yards away, was the band of rams we had found the previous night. We belly crawled to a hidden position and discussed the game plan. After a stalk around the valley we were in a slow creep up the mountain, we were finally laying in a boulder field, with eyes and rifle scope aimed at a band of rams. Minutes seemed like eternity and finally the ram we

"There is no half way. After his first exposure, a man is either a sheep hunter or he isn't. He either falls under the spell of sheep hunting and sheep country or he won't be caught dead on another sheep mountain." I am so glad to say that I fell completely under that spell. I am already dreaming of another hunt to chase wild sheep. Sheep hunting gave me inspiration that I can do anything, no matter what I've been through. Sheep hunting proved to me that no matter how many times I have been told "no you shouldn't," or



that the next day would be the day.

The following morning, we awoke crammed into tents, with frost on our sleeping bags. It was a crisp, clear morning, that felt perfect to be hunting. We hiked to our glassing point and didn't find the rams we were expecting. We hiked all the way around the edge of the mountain that we had expected the rams to be on, and never found them. We took a break on the edge of a cliff and ate

had been targeting cleared from the group, and Nate gave me the green light. The bullet connected, and we ran down the mountain chasing the sheep with binoculars in hand, finally hearing Frank say the best words I have ever heard, "There he is, right there, he's down for sure!"

As I look back on the hunt now, it was more than a hunt. It was one of the greatest experiences of my life. Just like Jack O'Conner said,

"no you can't," that I can, and I will!

Special thanks to my second family, the Maestri's, good friends Brendan Burns and Sawyer Peacock with KUIU, The Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation, Zach McDermott, Curt Pilcher with Red Rock Precision, Mac and Leona Watson with North Curl Outfitters, Leo and Cari Goss, La Palmosa and many anonymous donors that helped make this hunt a reality.

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



Jamie Daley-Seminoles



LM John Harris



Marsha Gilbertz with her Sunlight Basin Bull

# Member's Gallery

LM Miles Fortner with J. Woodham & Charlie Kingery

LM Greg Pope  
Desert Sheep-FNAWS #2





LM Cari Goss- Desert Sheep



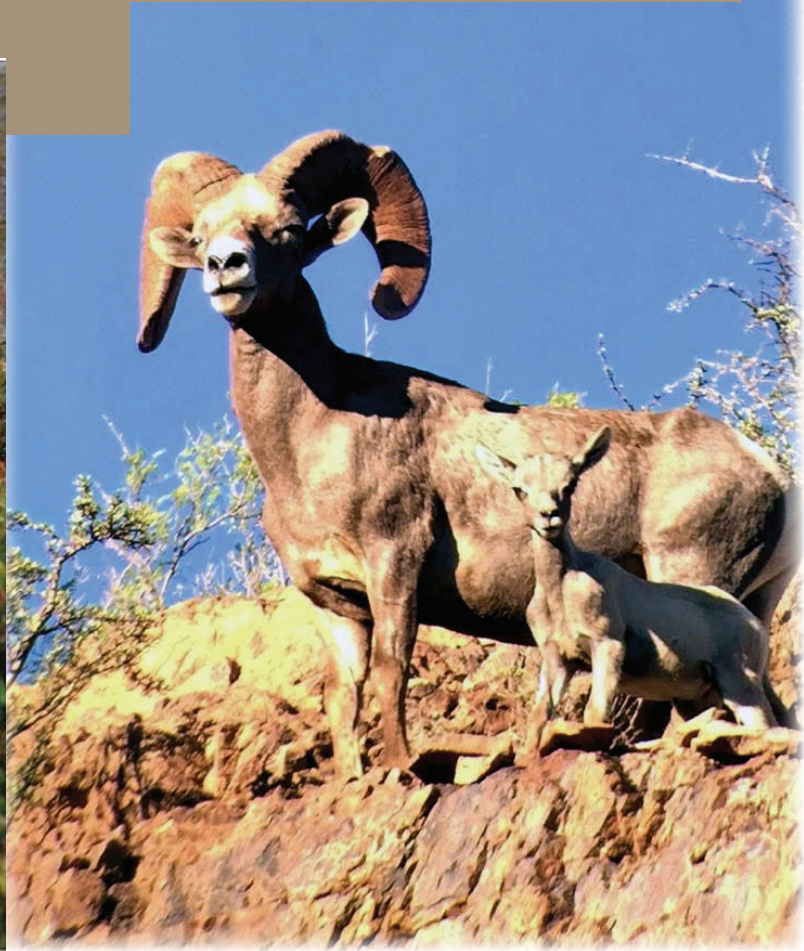
LM Leah Fortner with her BIG bull.

# BLAST FROM THE PAST

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



“ I Want To Grow Up To Be Just Like Dad”





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Life Members Jax and Jhett Taylor.



Slayd Daley along with proud dad, Jamie.



Tripp Montgomery, son of LM Dirk Montgomery



Thirteen year old JonDavid Tator had another good year - see pictures from the Platte Valley near Saratoga (mule deer and pronghorn) and a whitetail doe hunt near Glendo.



# Dawayne Dewey

Taxidermy: a passion and a service that has been a part of the outdoor industry for decades, capturing memories of adventures and supporting wildlife conservation along the way.

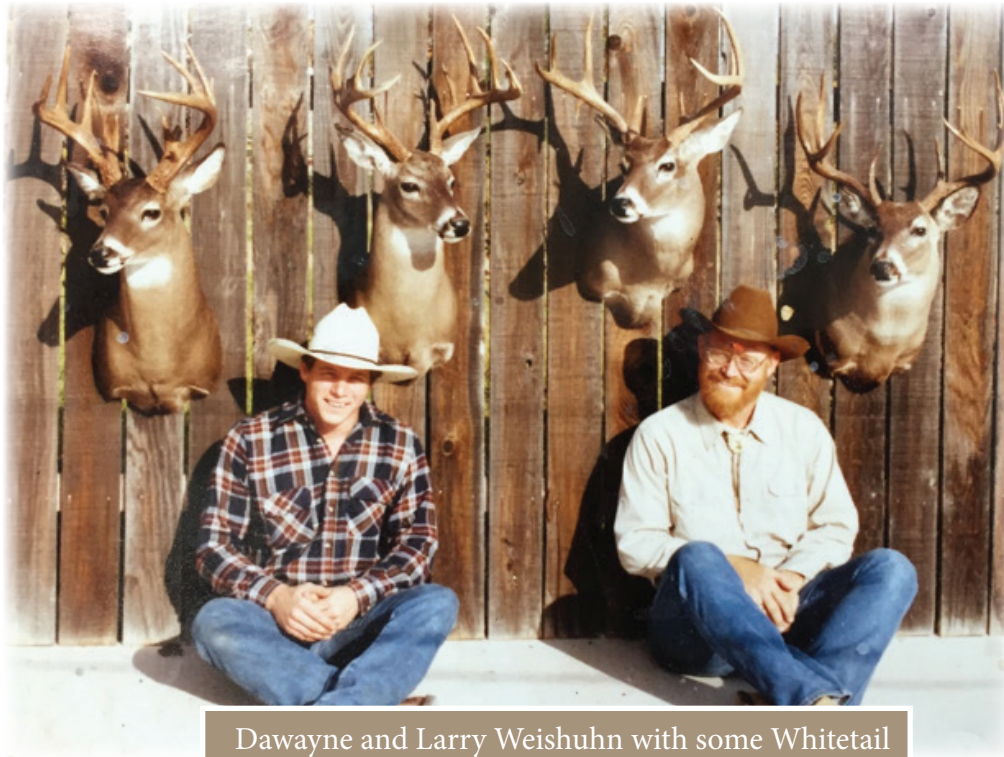
Dawayne Dewey, a 22-year resident of Wyoming, started doing taxidermy as a young man

he had the privilege of learning “on the job.” “I learned from some great taxidermists and artists like World Champion Don Holt, Jimmy Dieringer’s Woodbury Taxidermy and Mike Boyce’s Animal Artistry. I would not have the experience in so many areas of worldwide big game taxidermy without my time working and learning from

life-size animals for many of the Cabela’s stores. Then in the early 2000’s he started making a name for himself in the sheep and mountain game world. Along with taxidermy, Dawayne has a passion for sculpting. His gifts, knowledge and understanding of anatomy of animals allowed him to start sculpting forms for taxidermy. His forms and his name as one of the best at sheep quickly spread in the taxidermy and hunting industry. Dawayne has won a record three World titles with sheep, including live sculpting with a bighorn sheep, Best in World Large Mammal with a Gobi Argali sheep, and the Master of Master’s award with a life-size Stone sheep.

After many years of sculpting and mounting sheep, in 2015 Dawayne was able to go on a Dall Sheep hunt of his own. Hunting in the Wrangell mountains of Alaska with Majestic Mountain Outfitters, Dawayne was able to fulfill a dream of harvesting a beautiful Dall sheep. This adventure added to his knowledge and confirmed his research and time spent learning sheep and their anatomy.

In 2005 Dawayne joined and started exhibiting at the National Wild Sheep show in Reno. Over the years Dawayne has become a life member of Wild Sheep and has had a deep passion for helping conservation of wildlife and helps put and keep sheep on the mountain. Dewey Wildlife Studio has been giving life-size taxidermy donations to the main auction at the national Wild Sheep foundation since he has been exhibiting, as well as donating a floor pedestal mount to the <1 Club members since it started in 2013.



Dawayne and Larry Weishuhn with some Whitetail deer Dawayne did for Larry in TX in his early years

in Texas in 1984 at the age of seventeen with an after-school job making paper forms for a taxidermist in his hometown of Ingram, Texas. Immediately, he became fascinated with taxidermy and the anatomy of animals and that after school job soon turned into a passion and a career that has lasted thirty-six years.

From his early years, Dawayne has always had a desire to learn about animals, their anatomy and their natural habitat. During the first fifteen years of Dawayne’s career,

these men and their companies, “humbly stated by Dewey.

In 1998, Dawayne and his family pursued a dream of living in the west and moved to Cody, Wyoming, and opened Dewey Wildlife Studio. “Over the years there have been struggles but many blessings as well. God has always proven strong and provided work and great customers to keep my dream of being an artist alive.” States Dewey. In his first years in Cody, he had the privilege of mounting many

# Sponsor Spotlight

Since 2016 Dawayne and the Dewey Wildlife studio team have been supporting the local efforts of the Wyoming Wild Sheep, and since 2019 the Idaho State Chapter of Wild Sheep too. Dewey Wildlife has been donating taxidermy to these chapter fundraisers, too, in support of helping to put and keep sheep on the mountains near home.

Since 2015 Dewey Wildlife Studio has donated at the national and state levels thousands of dollars towards the conservation efforts of wild sheep.

In addition to supporting conservation efforts Dawayne and Dewey Wildlife also supports and donates to local and national nonprofits for veterans and disabled or terminally ill children. Today still in Cody, Wyoming Dawayne enjoys time spent hunting and fishing with children teaching them about conservation and the traditions of his heritage. He and his team continue to provide great service and outstanding taxidermy work. He continues to give back and help conservation of sheep and all wildlife.

Dall Sheep 2015 August in Alaska with Majestic Mountain Outfitters



We are honored and grateful for the contributions of Dawayne Dewey and Dewey Wildlife Studio to help put and keep sheep on the mountain.



**Best of category**

Dawayne Dewey, a Kerrville taxidermist holds his best of category award he won with his original javelina gamehead creation at the state taxidermy show in Waco June 16. Dewey is employed at International Wildlife Studio here.

Dawayne Dewey, a Kerrville taxidermist holds his "Best of category" award he won with his original Javelina game head creation at the state taxidermy show in Waco, TX June 16. Dewey is employed at International Wildlife Studio here. (Kerrville Times from July 15, 1990)

# “A Family Affair”

By Chris Galloway

In 1995 I drew a sheep tag, amazingly, on only my second application. I took a ram on Ishawooa Mesa on the South Fork of the Shoshone and, in spite of a terrifying grizzly experience, came home with a case of Sheep Fever. At the time I was not allowed to put in for a tag for five years, during which the current point system was initiated. After 24 years of gathering preference points, I knew that 2019 was going to be my year and in May I drew a tag in Area 3. After years of dreaming the planning began in earnest.

I had always intended to hunt with an outfitter and my long-time hunting buddy, my son Mark; however, in the intervening years I had also acquired a hunting son-in-law, Zach Rogers. Zach had been on a hunt when he was only 14 years old in Area 3 and was certain I could get a ram in that same location. We switched gears and began planning a self-guided hunt. As the time drew near, we seemed to run into a series of glitches which culminated with two of the three mules I had planned to take pulling up lame. At that point I was ready to throw in the towel and donate my tag to Wounded Warriors but, fortunately, Game Warden Dustin Shorma didn't answer his phone when I

called. Before I could pursue that line of thinking, our friend and outfitter Bob Barlow stepped up with three horses and Zach's family volunteered a mule. No more excuses, on August 29, 2019, we were loaded and headed for Cody.

On our last night of 'real food' we had a steak dinner and bedded down at the trail head with our horses, ready for an early start.

the packs continued to ride well throughout the long ride to camp. After a LONG day on the trail we reached Zach's campsite. We had a great view of the mountains surrounding us and the grass was lush and thick for our weary horses.

September 1, 2019, Opening Day of Sheep Season! We were up early drinking coffee, saddling horses and gathering gear and food for

the day. We were so busy that my coffee got cold and I didn't get my usual quota. We rode to a nearby basin and began glassing and hiking; soon we saw two young rams, one with a very light coat that we called



The Galloway Family (L-R)  
Mark, Chris, Zach

Before sunrise we were saddling horses and packing our pre-weighed panniers. Zach took the lead and we were on our way. The day was spectacular and, except for a tree down across the trail right out of the gate, we had an uneventful ride. For nine and a half hours we rode through beautiful country, crossing the Shoshone River multiple times and saw spectacular new country around every bend in the trail and over each new rise in elevation. The horses kept a good pace and

“Whitey”. I felt sure we would spot more rams soon but the rest of the day we drew a blank so it was back to camp, tend horses and plan to hunt another location the next day.

Hunt day 2. We were up early again getting ready to head out. I managed to get my coffee quota and oatmeal this time. We rode to an area that looked like it should be crawling with sheep and other wildlife. Mark and I spent the day glassing while Zach hiked looking for other locations to hunt. We

saw nothing, sheep or otherwise. Disappointed we rode back to camp. With a couple hours left before sundown we went back to the basin we had scouted the day before. We set up our spotting scopes and quickly located a dozen rams, including Whitey, moving down the basin to water. Once again they were a band young rams but, as we were watching, a new ram made his way down through a pass and entered the basin. At one point this new ram moved within 450 yards of our vantage point. He looked good! I thought if he moved 200 yards closer I would take him – but he didn't. He continued down the hill to drink from the creek below where he joined the twelve young rams. If the whole day had been ahead of us we could have made a stalk, but daylight was dwindling and there would have been way too many eyes on us if we tried to get within range. We did not want to spook them out of that basin so we left them for the next morning.

Hunt day 3. I spent a sleepless night thinking about that big ram, our plan for the next day's hunt and listening to 'something' walking around our camp. I didn't wake Mark or Zach but kept one hand on my pepper spray and the other on my gun in case of an intrusion. My thoughts of firing off pepper spray inside a collapsed tent conjured up some pretty chaotic images and I was happy to get up and get going early. We found the thirteen rams again in the basin, about 2000 yards away, and watched as they broke into smaller groups, grazed and moved. Finally, the big ram and three others dropped off the ridge where they would be cool and shaded for the day and we went to work. We moved to a position where I had a good rest and would have a 200- yard shot in a couple of directions, depending where they came out. We were very optimistic. This was a done deal. In the bag.

Everything but punching the tag.


We waited – and waited. Time dragged on. No sheep anywhere. They had moved out.

Hunt day 4. We hit the trail early the next morning, hoping to locate the missing rams. I was a bit down after losing them the day before but we quickly spotted them in the, now very familiar, basin. The range finder said 1750 yards but we knew it was now or never. We eased down to the stream below and then up a ravine where I could get a shot. Once out of the ravine we located them bedded down at 335 yards. I had plenty of time to get ready, the sheep were completely unaware of our presence. I wasn't going to shoot until "my" ram stood up so we waited. I was shaking and couldn't settle down. Gravity was also against me and I was constantly sliding downhill with rocks scraping my legs. Mark attempted to block my feet with his own. Finally, the ram stood up and I fired. All I could see through my scope was dust – I had missed! Zach glassed them right away, running as hard as they could right in our direction, but I had to get to the top of the next ridge to get a shot. Everything was happening

very fast. I was able to get off two more shots, from what position I have no idea whether prone of off- hand, and both shots felt good. I thought I heard a crash but the rams were out of sight. Zach kept moving trying to keep them in view then stopped and turned back to Mark and me; his huge smile was enough to give it away, ram down.

I felt just sick when I missed my first shot but, as it turned out, it was best worst shot I ever made. It turned the rams back toward us and gave me a second chance at much closer range.

This sheep hunt turned out to be my best hunt EVER and I could not be happier or more satisfied with my ram. There was no way I could have done it without Mark and Zach; at one point Zach was actually pulling me up a steep slippery face with my walking stick while Mark was pushing from behind. Thank you, Mark and Zach, and Thank You to my wife, Laura, for the support and encouragement and for listening to me go on and on about my passion. Finally, I really appreciate and want to thank all the people and groups who have worked, donated and lobbied to keep sheep in our mountains.



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# “How to Tree an Elk with a Chainsaw”

## By Gary Butler

Back when my wife and I were coping with raising a family on a meager income we needed meat in the freezer to keep groceries on the table; or as a friend of mine used to say “to keep the wolves away from the door in the winter”. Our meat of choice was elk since there were a lot of them, they were large and two of them would generally get us through the winter, that is until the kids became teenagers! Since we lived in northwest Wyoming and had elk out the back door it was generally pretty easy to hunt elk and have a very enjoyable time doing it with family and friends. When we got into rendezvousing and shooting black powder rifles it then became more of a challenge to harvest an elk using our new smoke poles or front end loaders as some folks call them. This put a little more challenge into the hunt since you have to get closer, keep your powder dry in wet weather, and reloading with speed does not happen. The November snows had hit and I had a late season cow tag burning a hole in my pocket. I gathered some groceries and my black powder paraphernalia and headed over to Wiggins Fork. There was about 18” of fresh snow and the elk were moving to their winter range in big groups. I cut some fresh elk tracks and started following them from the meadow upslope on a timbered mountain. It was a serenely calm and peaceful day with no wind, the sun shining bright but yet cold. The world seemed to be in slow motion with the conifers draped in fresh snow as I followed this little group of elk to the top of this small mountain. I knew the country well and the elk were headed toward a small meadow below the top that had one of the old Sheep eater Indian sheep

traps in it. As I came into the edge of this snow covered meadow I saw movement and there were 3 cow elk in the upper left side. I dropped to my knees in the snow and judged them to be about 90 yards away. I cradled my .54 caliber round ball percussion muzzle loader and squeezed off one of the most inefficient ballistic missiles made. Having never shot an elk before with this projectile I knew I had to hit vitals to down her. Well, much to my chagrin the 3 elk ran away to the left and out of sight. When I shot my sight picture and the placement felt good, but she ran off like she was not even hit. When I got up to the planned murder scene I did find a droplet of blood but that was not encouraging. I followed the elk tracks to the edge of the meadow and a cliff edge. The tracks were hard to separate because of the deep snow but they kept going into a patch of timber. When I first started elk hunting many moons ago I would have blundered into the timber thinking I could outrun them. But having many seasons of elk hunting behind me and being a little longer in the tooth something didn't seem quite right. I decided to back track and could only find 2 sets of tracks. When I got back up along the cliff edge I looked down off the cliff and below me about 60 yards was the cow elk in the crotch of a pine tree! The good thing was that she was dead, but the bad thing was that she was dead in the crotch of a tree about 10 feet above the ground. One of the last things I carry with me when I'm elk hunting is a chainsaw, but this is one time that I was wishing I had one with me! When I circled off that mountain and got down on the side below the cliff I couldn't believe how easy it was to tree an elk with no hounds

involved! The two things I wanted most of all was a camera and a chainsaw. I have field dressed and quartered elk in a lot of difficult and challenging terrain but this had to be one of the hardest I ever did by myself. So, when someone tells you it is impossible to tree an elk, I can tell you from experience it has been done before! I wonder if those Sheep eater's ever ran bighorns off that cliff before? You know that history does repeat itself. Things that furthered my education during this hunting trip are: 1) You don't have to have hounds to tree an elk; 2) I will never complain about field dressing an elk on a steep snow covered slope wedged under downfall again (well, maybe a little); 3) Chainsaws used to be the last thing I'd think to pack on a horse hunt but the thought still enters my mind occasionally; 4) Round lead balls are not the most efficient hunting projectiles; 5) Don't ever let anyone convince you that it's not possible to tree an elk (but better alternatives do exist).



# “TDK Safaris, A Dream Come True”

## By Dean DiJenno

As we sat by the fire on our last night in South Africa, Diane and I reflected back on the experiences of the last two years that had brought us to this special place.

It all started with our good friends and WY-WSF Life Members, Dale & Jacque Sims introducing us to Lisa McArtor in Cody during 2017.

We were intrigued about Africa although we had previously said we would never go there. We thought it would be too hot, too third world, and that the hunting might not be fair chase.

We listened to Lisa as she explained her concept for TDK Safaris. Trust/Dedication/Knowledge and began to think this might be for us.

Eventually we made the commitment and found Lisa to be the finest person and outfitter imaginable. She took care of each of individual needs on the hunt, the food, accommodations and the special side trips we wanted to make while in South Africa.

Upon our arrival we were met at plane side and escorted through both customs and clearing our firearms... No Problem!

After a quick two hour ride by car we arrived at the TDK concession. The entire staff turned out to greet us and we immediately felt at home.

The chalets are brand new and very modern. Each bedroom has an individual bath and daily laundry service. There are no TVs but we found that our Verizon International Internet service worked

and we were able to phone home to let everyone know we had arrived. There are two groups of two chalets, each with a sitting room in between so the camp can manage 8 people very nicely.

We awoke at dawn the next morning to the sounds of Africa! Baboons and monkeys chattered and birds of all sorts sang. We found our way to the dining room, a beautiful round canopy complete with hard wood floor, a giraffe rug, and a nicely stocked bar. After saying Grace we dove into a hot meal of bacon, eggs, pancakes. We soon learned that every meal at TDK is hot and delicious.

Then it was into the Toyota for the first day of exploration. There was rarely a moment when we were not observing animals of some sort. We took over 2000 photos during our trip and found that the professional hunter and the trackers enjoyed seeing and telling us about the different birds and other animals.

We found the weather to be very moderate and dry, highs were in the 60 degree range.

Over the course of our hunt, Diane took a 42” Cape Buffalo and Dean a beautiful Kudu. In all we took 7 species and our friends another 6 different species. The hunts were spot and stalk and the terrain gentle by Wyoming standards but still challenging.

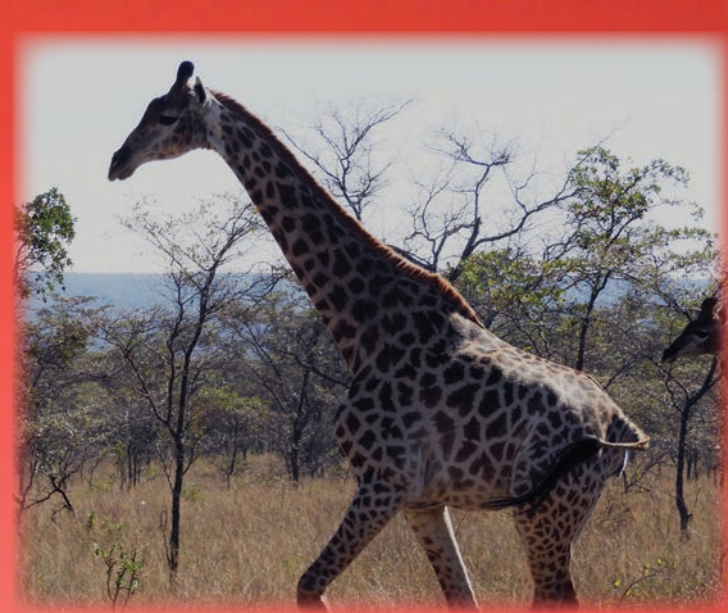
We also found time to travel by car to the Big 5 Safari headquarters where we saw Lions, Elephants,

Rhinos and so much more roaming free on the African plain. Other excursions to an elephant rescue where we learned about elephants, touched them and even took rides on their back and a leopard/big cat rescue where we got to pet a leopard were wonderful days.

We were awed by the native dancers who came to our campfire one night during our stay.

Africa lives on forever in our dreams, we highly recommend you take your trip to TDK and experience the majesty of South Africa.





Lisa McArtor: (307) 213-1007  
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Cole (LM 30) and I would like to submit pictures of our grandson's harvest this fall. Kale Benton (lower left) is life member #240 and Kade is life member #340. This was Kade's first year to hunt. Thank you - Elaine Benton (LM101).



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

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



Our success rate runs close to 100% due to these qualified guides. They are the foundation of Grizzly Outfitters, LLC.

Our hunts are four days hunted on private, BLM, and State lands. You will be guided 2x1 or 1x1 which ever you choose with four wheel drive pickups and on foot. These are spot and stalk hunts. We offer both rifle and archery hunts. We can handle any type of hunt regardless of your age or physical condition.



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



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36th annual convention.  
Details inside.

