

# The **RAMPAGE**

**Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation**

**Spring 2016**

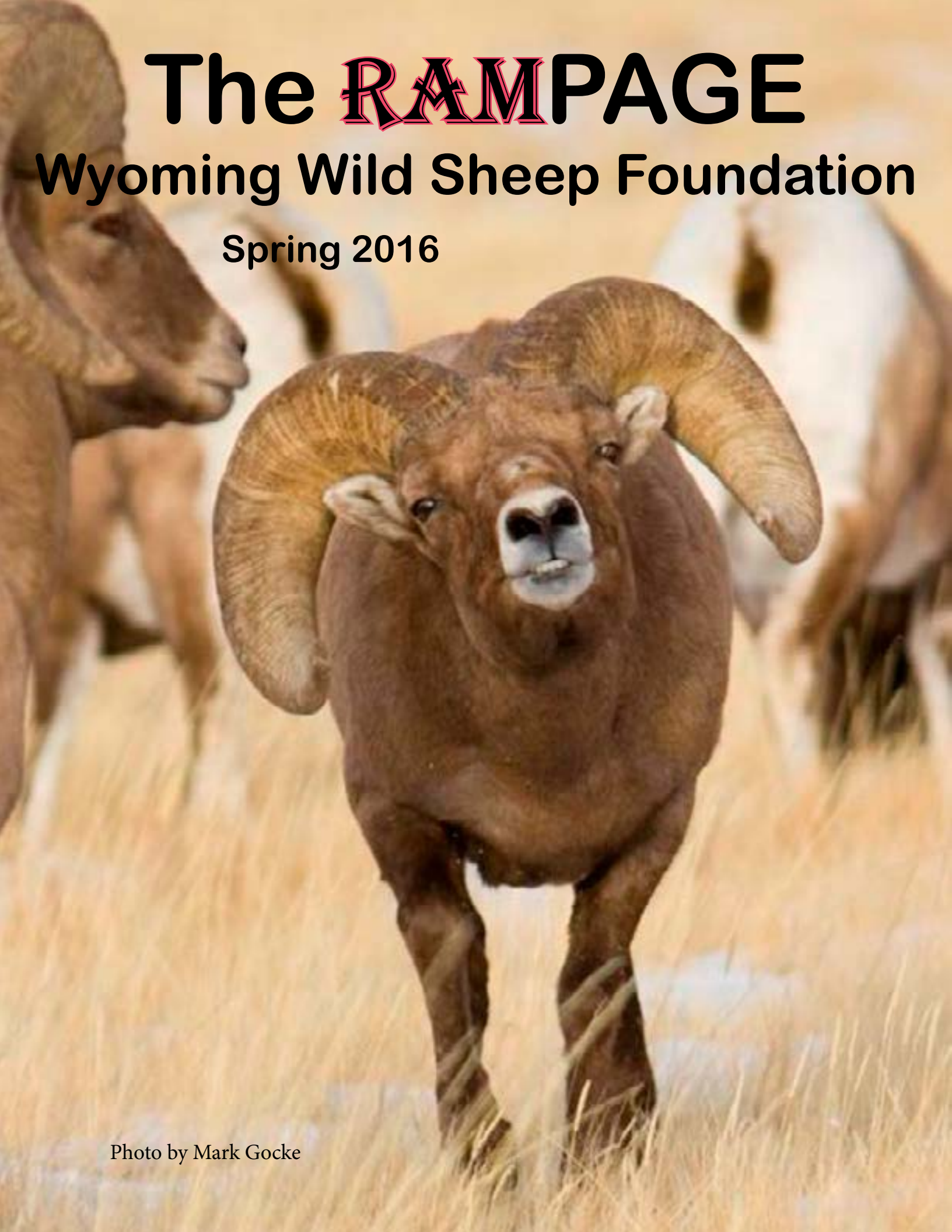


Photo by Mark Gocke

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"Blast from the Past"-Pictured are Steve Kilpatrick at age 4 with his Trophy Sparrow, and Jim Collins' "Euroalbino Tribe" bison hunt from 2001.

## 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](http://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](http://www.wyomingwildsheep.org).

Contact address: Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation

P.O. Box 666

Cody, WY 82414

E-mail: [info@wyomingwildsheep.org](mailto:info@wyomingwildsheep.org)



WYOMING WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION

# The RAMPAGE

## FULL COLOR ADVERTISING RATES

Full-Page \$250 (\$200/issue, 2 issues)

1/2-Page \$150 (\$125/issue, 2 issues)

1/4-Page \$70 (\$50/issue, 2 issues)

1/8-Page \$50 (\$40/issue, 2 issues)

Donations netting WY-WSF >\$500 entitle donor to a free 1/4-page ad in next 2 issues of The Rampage.

Ads must be received in camera ready .jpg format by 10/5 & 3/5!!

## 2015-2016 Calendar of Events

June 3-4, 2016

Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation Convention/Fund raiser  
Parkway Plaza, Casper, WY

June 15-16,2016

Wyoming Game & Fish/ Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation  
14th Annual Big Horn Sheep Summit  
Burgess Junction

June 23-26, 2016

WSF Chapter and Affiliate summit meeting  
Fort Robinson, NE

July 16-17, 2016

Seminole Mountain Guzzler Project (see page 49)



Board and LM, Scott Butler with his  
dandy 2015 Buck →

Wyoming WSF would like to thank, and recognize, Life Members who have signed up since the Fall 2015 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:

[Http://www.wyomingwildsheep.org/content/life-members](http://www.wyomingwildsheep.org/content/life-members)

If you would be interested in signing up/ upgrading to Life Member status with WY-WSF, please visit our Store or Membership pages on the website . A \$500, one-time payment (or \$100 down, with quarterly \$100 payments), invests in Wyoming’s bighorns, plus gets you or someone you know a high-quality engraved knife (either fixed- or folding-blade) or plaque. We thank all of our past, current, and future Life Members!!

*\*Effective June 5, 2016 we will no longer offer the Life membership incentive knives. This action is taken to insure the maximum is invested from our Life Membership donations.*

- 465 Everett Boss
- 466 Reserved
- 467 Greg Michelena
- 468 Will Loeper
- 469 Bruce Lawson
- 470 Leo Goss
- 471 Cari Goss



# Don't Miss The Ladies Luncheon!



## 2016 Theme: "Blast from the Past-The Way We Were"

Join us from 11:30 - 1 on Saturday, June 4th in Adrian's at the Parkway Plaza. Registration is \$25 and seating is limited. Take part in our murder mystery, "Who Killed the Sourdough?" We need Cowgirls, Settlers, Suffragettes, Cheyenne Social Club girls, Roving Gypsies, and Dance Hall girls. The on line registration page will allow you to tell us which group you are going to be part of for the luncheon. Don't forget to bring a hat or bonnet to match your character with you. The Ladies Luncheon is fully funded by WY-WSF Ladies and the event is not only a fund-raiser but also a fun-raiser. There will be silent auctions prizes along with door prizes to award. Questions? Call Cindy Collins at (307) 864-3929.

Register on-line at: [www.wyomingwildsheep.org/store](http://www.wyomingwildsheep.org/store)

Bring you favorite photos to the banquet and take part in the People's Choice Photo contest. Color or black and white will be fine. Please don't bring photos larger than 11 X 14 and don't bring any framed photos. Three winners will receive credits towards their auction expenses. Sponsored by Freddie Goetz.



# WY WSF President's Message

## by Jerry Galles

Daylight savings is finally here and spring is just around the corner. Winter in Casper, felt especially long this year. The snow came in November and persisted until February. We didn't have our typical chinook winds to warm the air and melt the snow. I was pleased to see the bare ground. Even though we didn't have huge snow storms, the winds blew what snow we had into very large snow banks, many of which are still in the draws, behind snow fences, trees and shrubs. This winter Warren Youmans ( my son in law ) and I had the pleasure of working and attending two very successful wildlife fund raising events. In January, we went to the National Wild sheep Foundation Convention in Reno, Nevada. We worked with the Wild Sheep Foundation staff, auction spotters and auctioneers. There was a record turnout for vendors, people going to the vendor booths on the show floor and the banquets. The highlights for the live auction were the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep license selling for \$380,000.00. The Montana Bighorn Sheep license sold for \$305,000.00. It is pretty amazing to see so many people gathered in one place to support and celebrate wildlife. The convention raised more than 6.5 million dollars.

Wyoming's own Wyoming Game and Fish Department Wild Sheep biologist Doug McWhirter was inducted into the Wild Sheep Foundation's Biologist's Wall of Fame. Gray Thornton along with Kevin Hurley presented the award to Doug. Doug is truly deserving of the award.

In February, we went to the Wildlife Hunting Expo in Salt Lake City and worked with the Mule Deer Foundation staff, auction spotters and John Bair, auctioneer. There was a record number of vendors, attendees to the show floor and the banquets here as well. In the live auction, the Arizona Mule Deer license sold for \$400,000.00 while the Antelope Island Mule Deer License

brought in \$410,000.00. Even the Arizona Coues Deer license turned over \$50,000.00. This convention raised more than 6 million dollars. It was the largest amount of money raised in their ten year history.

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department was given an award for establishing the Mule Deer Initiative in 2007. Director Scott Talbott was there to accept this prestigious award from Miles Moretti of the Mule Deer Foundation.

The important part of the above message is that wildlife, whether it is in Wyoming, any other state in the United States or the world for that matter, is important to so many people. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department along with the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Muley Fanatics, Mule Deer Foundation, National Wild Turkey Federation, Wyoming Wildlife Federation, Wyoming Governor's Big Game License Coalition, Wyoming Wildlife Foundation, The Wyoming Community Foundation, Duck's Unlimited, Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust and the list goes on, all provide funding for Sheep to bats and frogs. The goal we all strive for, is to perpetuate our wildlife species. Our wildlife is a big contributor to Wyoming's economy. The hunting, fishing and other wildlife activities we have available to us, are second to none. We are important to the conservation of our wildlife and the economy of this state. To quote the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, " Hunting is Conservation ". This issue of the Rampage is filled with many member photos' and hunting stories. There are many hours of devoted effort put into this issue by several of our board members and sheep enthusiasts. I hope you enjoy every page.

# WY WSF Executive Director's Message by Steve Kilpatrick

Your WY-WSF made it through the winter in flying colors. The support from the membership and Board of Directors continues to expand WY-WSF's ability to help put and keep sheep on the mountain.

Bighorns are considered to be "specialist" vs "generalist". They have specific habitat requirements and are more sensitive to environmental changes and disturbances. "Generalist", like elk, on the other hand, are quite capable of adapting to changes in their environment. Why do I mention this? Because, if YOU are willing to put and keep sheep on the mountain, YOU are also helping put and keep numerous other wildlife species on the mountain. And, critters on the mountain (and plains), is why we live in Wyoming.

What have you helped us do over the past several months? Well, here's a partial list:

**Investment in the Future** - We are developing an even stronger partnership with the National Bighorn Sheep Center. They are dedicated to educating the public, emphasis on youth, about the habitat needs and ecology of BH sheep. To show our support of the Future, WY-WSF approved educational grants for the Center. Ferris-Seminole Mtns.

**Transplant** - Several years ago you helped put sheep on the mountain at Devil's Canyon. That herd has done extremely well and managers are now relocating some of those bighorns to preclude habitat degradation and/or a disease die-off. The WGFD relocated 24 of the Devil's Canyon bighorns to the Ferris Mountains on February 21, 2016 (Read pages 20&21).

**Conservation Fund** - The Butler Family Foundation launched this fund only a few months ago to establish a corpus from which the interest would be used to help fund

the bighorn sheep resource for perpetuity. Help us reach our \$250,000 goal by making a donation and having a chance at a coveted Winchester Jack O'Connor Model 70, 270 cal. rifle.

**Grant Summary** - Your Grant In Aid program is one of the more active in the nation. The Board approved funding for 6 projects totaling approximately \$67K during the winter meeting in Dubois. That's very near \$1M worth of projects funded since 1988!! And, that \$1M has leveraged multiple millions for wild sheep conservation.

**Hunting with Heroes** - WY-WSF has become partners with Hunting With Heroes and granted them financial assistance. These folks answer the dreams of disabled veterans by providing heartwarming outdoor experiences for 150 veterans/yr in Wyoming. Come see and hear the program founders at the convention in Casper on June 4, 2016. [Http://huntingwithheroes.org/](http://huntingwithheroes.org/)

## **Temple Pk Disease Assessment and Collaring**

Wy-WSF has made a major contribution towards a WGFD effort to radio collar 15 bighorns in the North Fork Canyon of the Popo Agie River and on the South Fork of the Little Wind River. The objective is to assess the disease status, habitat and migration patterns of the remaining sheep prior to any future efforts to transplant additional or new sheep in this herd unit. We have been engaged in numerous other activities over the past few months which are too numerous to cover in my short list. So, please read this addition of the Rampage and visit our web site (<http://wyomingwildsheep.org/index.asp>) along with our Facebook page frequently, to stay abreast of what YOUR support is doing for YOUR wild sheep.

Hope to see ya on the mountain and in Casper, June 3rd.



Jerry



# Wyoming WSF 2015 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 6, 2015 banquet in Casper. We thank them for their support, and invite others who might be interested in a Full Curl table for our 2016 fundraising banquet to please contact President Jerry Galles, 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 2016!!

2425 East Yellowstone Hwy. 307-234-6100 • 800-339-7020



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Adam Johnson  
 Richard Mackler  
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 Dr. Roy Paulson



# Conservation Fund Raising Contest

Our conservation fund's operating agreement specifies that our chapter must raise \$250,000 over the next ten years (for the full operating agreement go to: [www.wyomingwildsheep.org/agreement](http://www.wyomingwildsheep.org/agreement)) to meet our goal. By achieving this lofty goal we will ensure that grant in aid projects will be funded for years to come using the interest generated by the funds principal. A contest will be held to assist with raising the funds needed. Donors will receive one chance for each \$100 contribution to the Conservation Fund. At the 2016 banquet in Casper we will draw for the winner of the Kimber Micro Carry .380 Auto with Laser sight. At the 2017 banquet we will draw again and award the Grand Prize, the Winchester Jack O' Connor Model 70 in .270 in a handmade wooden presentation case which is lined with sheep hide. You need not be present to win and may donate as many times as you wish. Tickets can be purchased at all of our events and on line at: [www.wyomingwildsheep.org/store](http://www.wyomingwildsheep.org/store).



The legendary Jack O'Connor is considered by many to be the father of the .270 Winchester caliber. His passion and dedication to the caliber and the game animals he pursued is evident in this custom tribute rifle. Its hammer-forged, featherweight contour, polish blued barrel is free-floating for extreme accuracy and sports a target crown to prevent damage to the rifling. The Pre-64 action features a classic three-position safety and M.O.A.™ Trigger system for increased versatility. AAA, high-grade, French walnut stock has an ebony forearm tip and shadow line cheek piece that draws directly from Jack's original rifle. The floor plate and grip cap are artistically engraved and Jack's signature is written in nickel on the trigger guard. Checkered metal butt plate resists slipping when shouldered.



# Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation 2016 Wyoming Game & Fish Commissioners License Raffle

Tickets \$100.00 each; Only 300 tickets!!

**1<sup>st</sup> PRIZE: WYOMING GAME & FISH  
COMMISSIONERS ELK, DEER, OR PRONGHORN  
2016 LICENSE**

(Donated by WGF Commissioner Keith Culver, Newcastle)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: 7 Day Caribbean Cruise or \$2000 Cash**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: Kimber Montana 8400 .270 WSM**

**4<sup>th</sup> Prize: Nikon 13 30X50 ED Field Spotting Scope**

**5<sup>th</sup> Prize: Ruger Magnum Hunter 300 Win. Mag. Rifle**

**6<sup>th</sup> Prize: Ruger AR 556 .223 Rifle**

**7<sup>th</sup> Prize: Sony Cyber Shot DSC-RX100 Camera**

**8<sup>th</sup> Prize: Nikon Monarch7, 10X30 Binoculars**

**9<sup>th</sup> Prize: Apple I Pad Mini 2 with WI-FI**

**10<sup>th</sup> Prize: Ruger .22 Charger Pistol**

Drawing will be held June 4, 2016 at the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation annual banquet in Casper, Wyoming.

**Winners need not be present to win.**

For information, and to order tickets, please visit the WY-WSF web site: <http://www.wyomingwildsheep.org> or  
Phone: 307-527-7008

Commissioners License is good for Elk, Deer, or Pronghorn in Wyoming, and is independent of regular WGFD license draw. Winners are responsible for all applicable license fees and taxes.

**WYOMING WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION**  
**2016 GUN BOARD RAFFLE**  
**10 GUN GIVEAWAY**  
**(ONLY 400 TICKETS WILL BE SOLD)**  
**TICKETS- \$50 EACH, OR 5 FOR \$200**

Kimber MT Ascent 6.5 Creedmoor

Kimber Pro Varmint .204 Ruger

Taurus Raging Judge 410/ 454 Casull

Ruger Hawkeye Predator .308

Kimber Crimson Carry 45 auto

Henry 45-70 Case Hardened color

Kimber Classic 300 Win Mag

Ruger American 30-06

Benelli Nova 12 gauge Pump shotgun

Ruger 22/45 lite pistol

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT: [WWW.WYOMINGWILDSHEEP.ORG/STORE](http://WWW.WYOMINGWILDSHEEP.ORG/STORE)  
OR BY CALLING DEAN AT (307) 527-7008. WINNERS WHO ARE NOT PRESENT ARE  
RESPONSIBLE FOR FFL TRANSFER AND SHIPPING FEES.



## Life Member's Drawing for a Mountain Goat Hunt

On June 4, 2016, one lucky life member of Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation will win a Mountain Goat Hunt in British Columbia. All life members of WY-WSF will be entered into this drawing for a Mountain Goat outfitted hunt with Wicked River Outfitters on either Aug 29 - Sept 6, 2016 or Sept 11- 18, 2016.

Go to: [www.wickedriveroutfitters.com](http://www.wickedriveroutfitters.com) for more information on this outfitter.

### Rules

- The winning life member MUST be registered for the banquet and present at the 2016 WY-WSF banquet on June 4, 2016 in Casper, WY.
- All new WY-WSF Life members will be entered once at the cost of a Life membership of \$500.00
- Every WY-WSF Life member registered and present will have their name entered once into this drawing at no additional cost.
- All new WY-WSF Life memberships must be paid in full before their name will be entered into this drawing.
- The drawing will be held at the conclusion of the banquet live auction.
- The winner will only be able to transfer the Mountain Goat hunt to another Life member that is paid up, present, and registered at the 2016 banquet.
- Since many Life members and sponsors have donated to help purchase the hunt, the winner of the Mountain Goat hunt cannot sell, trade, or exchange this hunt for profit
- The WY-WSF board reserves the right to transfer the hunt to alternate Life members drawn the night of the banquet, if the first winner attempts to sell or trade this hunt.
- In case the winner is unable to go on this hunt or unable to gift this hunt to another WY-WSF member attendee, WY-WSF will draw three alternate Life member's names at the banquet
- Wicked River Outfitters will be notified by WY-WSF of the lucky hunter.
- The winner is fully responsible for all tags/licenses, airfare, charter flights, tips, and associated taxes, hotels before and after the hunt, taxidermy, and shipping.
- Any board member, volunteer, director, or officer who is also a Life member, of Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation that is present and registered is eligible to win this hunt.
- The value of this hunt may not be redeemed for cash.
- One WY-WSF Life membership will be auctioned at the Saturday, June 4, 2016 Life member breakfast and one WY-WSF Life membership will be auctioned at the banquet live auction in the evening. Both of these Life memberships will be auctioned and must be paid in full prior to the drawing for this Mountain Goat Hunt.

Visit our website at: [www.wyomingwildsheep.org/membership.asp](http://www.wyomingwildsheep.org/membership.asp) to purchase a Life membership or call Dean DiJenno at (307) 527-7008

# 2016 Convention/Fund Raiser Highlights!!

- 2016 Wyoming Governor's Bighorn Sheep License (Final One!)
- Two 2016 Wyoming Game & Fish Commissioner's Licenses
- British Columbia outfitted Mtn. Goat Hunt giveaway to WY- WSF Life Member
- Cabo Fishing Trip/Stay for 6 People
- New Zealand Trophy Red Stag with \$1000 credit towards a Tahr hunt
- WY Spring 2017 3-Day Turkey Hunt - 2 Adults & 2 Youth Hunters
- 5 Day Bear Viewing/Fishing Trip in Alaska
- Banquet Rifle Kimber Classic Select .280 AI
- Alcohol, Tobacco, & Firearms Package (Ruger Precision .308)
- WY-WSF WSF Life Memberships #499 and #500
- WSF Life Membership
- WSF 2017 "Sheep Show" Couples Registration, Reno, NV
- Handmade gun case with stained glass BHS Ram door
- Stone Glacier Pack, Sitka Clothing, Pendleton Package
- Wrapped Gun Safe, Wrapped Yeti Coolers
- Huskemaw 5-20 X50 Blue Diamond Rifle Scope with data collection
- Huskemaw 10 X 42 Binoculars
- "10-Gun" Gun Board (only 400 tickets will be sold!)
- 10-Prize Wyoming G&F Commissioner's License Raffle
- Registration for 2 Ladies to attend 2017 "Babe with Bullets" course in Birney, MT

## Other Activities/Featured Events

- Friday Night Social/Mixer
- (Complimentary) Breakfast for WY-WSF Life Members
- Ladies Luncheon- "Blast from the Past- The Way We Were" & a murder mystery!
- Informative Seminars on: Wyoming Bighorn Sheep Projects, Hunting with Heroes, Best of the West, Huskemaw, Morning Creek Outfitters.
- WSF Youth Wildlife Conservation Experience Kid Events
- Photo Contest- Bring your photo up to 11 x 14 with you (remember to put your name on the back). This is a People's Choice contest with three prizes to be awarded.
- Life Member Incentive - A Mountain Goat hunt in British Columbia
- Conservation Fund Drawing- For a Kimber Micro Carry, with Laser in .380
- Visit the "Hunting with Heroes" Full Curl Table sponsored by Anthony Wyatt, Wyatt Construction.

# Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation 2016 Annual Convention and Fund raiser

Join us for our 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention and Fund raiser! Friday evening kicks off the weekend with a social (cash bar, munchies), games, and other activities. Saturday events include a complimentary breakfast for WY-WSF Life Members, the general membership/business meeting, Ladies Luncheon, informative seminars after lunch, no-host happy hour, and pre-banquet games. A photo contest will also be held – bring your favorite hunting or wildlife-related photos to enter. Enjoy a delicious dinner, then get ready for an exciting live auction, which will include hunts, trips, artwork and much more. Special Drawing for 2016 BHS license recipients, bring a copy of your license! Proceeds go toward Wyoming WSF's goal of "putting and keeping more sheep on the mountain."

Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>

9:00 am - noon Board Meeting, Parkway Plaza, Railroad Room (Including funding requests)  
 6:00-9:00 pm Social (cash bar), games, Tiffany Room

Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup>

7:15-9:30 Complimentary Life Member Breakfast, Grand Ballroom (Life members only; reservations required by May 27<sup>th</sup>)  
 10:00-11:30 Membership/Business Meeting (including funding requests), American Room  
 11:40 Break for Lunch (on your own) [FYI: Parkway Plaza will have lunch buffet set in the Parkway Café]  
 11:40 Ladies' Luncheon (\$25/person), Adrians @ Parkway Plaza (Reservations needed by May 27<sup>th</sup>).  
 1:00-3:45 pm Seminars in the American Room: John Porter-Best of the West, Dan Currah-Hunting with Heroes, WY G&F updates  
 5:00-6:30 pm Happy Hour (Cash Bar), Games, Raffles Mardi Gras/Natrona/Wyoming Rooms  
 6:30-7:45 pm Prime Rib Dinner  
 7:45-10:30 pm Fund raiser Auction

A room block has been reserved (\$81/night/room) at the Parkway Plaza (307-235-1777 or 800-270-7829). Make reservations by May 27<sup>th</sup> and mention you are with "Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation" to receive the convention room block rate. Please visit the WY-WSF Events page on our website <http://www.wyomingwildsheep.org/events.asp> for on-line registration, purchase of Gun Board and other raffle tickets. Alternatively, our attendees may continue to complete and return the lower portion of this form to: Wyoming WSE, P.O. Box 666, Cody, WY 82414. Send payment by May 25<sup>th</sup> to be eligible for the early bird drawing for \$100 auction credit! Questions? Call Dean DiJenno at (307) 527-7008, or e-mail: [info@wyomingwildsheep.org](mailto:info@wyomingwildsheep.org). Your registration packet/envelope will be available for you to pick up during Friday evening's social, or Saturday from 4:00 to 5:00 PM.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse/Guest (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Daytime Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Additional Guests Contact Info (Name(s), Address, Phone #, e-mail, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

Single Annual Membership Ticket (includes 1 meal and 1 annual membership)	\$75	X _____	\$ _____
Couple Annual Membership Ticket (includes 2 meals and 1 annual membership)	\$120	X _____	\$ _____
Couple Annual Membership Ticket (includes 2 meals and 2 annual memberships)	\$145	X _____	\$ _____
Life Member Single Ticket (includes 1 meal for current life member)	\$45	X _____	\$ _____
<b>Children under 13 (Youth Menu To Be Determined) – NO CHARGE!! Bring the kids!!</b>		<b>X _____</b>	<b>\$ No Charge!</b>
Ladies Luncheon	\$25	X _____	\$ _____
Early Bird Raffle Tickets (6 sheets for \$100, \$20 savings)	\$100	X _____	\$ _____
I'm unable to attend the WY-WSF Convention, but please accept my membership renewal	\$25	X _____	\$ _____
Gun Board (N=10 Guns!) Raffle Tickets \$50/each or 5 for \$200 (Only 400 will be sold!)		X _____	\$ _____
"Full Curl" Table Package (includes 8 meals, 2 bottles of wine, WY-WSF merchandise, 8 memberships, \$400 in general raffle tickets, 3 \$50 "gun board" raffle tickets, and 1 Chance to win a special "Full Curl" drawing rifle	\$850	X _____	\$ _____
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>			<b>\$ _____</b>

\*\*\*\*\*

Payment Method: Charge to credit card (Visa/Master Card Only) #: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date (mmyy): \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Signature (if paying by credit card): \_\_\_\_\_

Check (made out to WY-WSF) enclosed for: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*  
 For Life Members Only: Will you be attending the complimentary Life Members breakfast? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_  
 # of Life Members attending \_\_\_\_ Names of Life Members attending \_\_\_\_\_

For Ladies attending the Luncheon: Which character will you portray? (Circle one) Cowgirl, Settler, Suffragette, Cheyenne Social Club, Roving Gypsy, Dance Hall Girl

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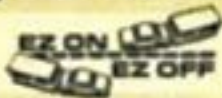
The WY-WSF Board of Directors wish to thank Cole and Elaine Benton for their many years of service to our organization. We are especially grateful for their continued donations that allow us to provide a Youth Cow Elk Hunt along with butchering to a lucky youth member.

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# 2nd Chance Ram

## by Kurt Eisenach

Picture this, August in the Wyoming high country with a bighorn sheep tag in your pocket and a bow in your hand. You have waited 27 years for this opportunity to happen. A very close call {35 yds.} two days ago with a ram scouted earlier in the summer and an uncomfortably close encounter at 80 yards with a mother Grizzly and two cubs. It has been an incredibly exciting hunt so far shared with great friends and your 22 year old hunt crazy son. What adventure waits around the next bend in the trail? That question as well as how big is the ram above us are on my mind as my son and I start the climb. An hour later,



on an elk trail side-hilling a 45 degree slope I get my answer to one of the questions. As I plant my right foot on the edge of the trail and step forward the trail gives way and I am going down hard on my face. Carrying my Mathews in my left hand I instinctively throw my arm out away from my body so I don't fall on the quiver full of sharp broad heads. When I hit the ground with a 40 lb pack on my back and my left arm angling up the 40-50 degree slope I felt and heard something pop. I laid there for a few seconds thinking this is not good! Rolling over and sitting up on the edge of the trail was not too painful but when I placed my hands at my sides and slid back away from the trail edge my left shoulder told me different. The pain left no doubt my hunt was over for the day. I could

not hold the weight of my bow away from my body much less draw an arrow back. Calvin and I decided to rest and glass from where we were for a while as I was not in much pain. Just before we decided to head back to the mules, the rams showed themselves 1500' above us and yes there was a mid-160 class shooter in the bunch. However, with no way to shoot my bow we headed back to see if tomorrow might bring some improvement to my shoulder. If so, we would be back.

The next day back at camp, after a night's sleep thanks to some pain medication, I could still not hold my bow up at arm's length. The decision was obvious to seek medical attention back home in Sheridan, WY and make plans based on the doctor's diagnosis. X-rays, MRIS and a visit with an orthopedic surgeon told me the archery hunt was over. I had torn a major tendon completely off my rotator cuff and damaged another one in my left shoulder. This was not going to get better without surgery and that would take me out for the rest of the sheep season. My left arm would be strapped to my chest for 6 weeks following the operation and functional use would be at least 6 weeks after that. Now what!? My surgeon, who is also a bow hunter, agreed I could delay surgery for up to 8 weeks but no longer than that. If I waited longer the likelihood of success would go down dramatically. I checked with the WY G&F to see if I could turn my tag in and get a new one the next year. That would have been possible if I had hurt it scouting but since I was hunting and had used the tag NO REFUNDS ALLOWED.

With the archery option off the table it was time to break out the rifle. My plan since drawing this tag was to better my 1988 archery ram or rifle hunt for the best ram I could find.

The shoulder was good enough that I could do some of the horse and camp work but I would be leaning heavily on my friends for help. My buddy Chris Galloway stepped up and said "let's see what we can do." On sept 2 we went back to Meeteetsee and packed in to a spot we had pre-scouted with several ram groups. We knew there was a 170 class ram in this area but two other hunting groups got in ahead of us. They both took quality rams in the area on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of Sept. They had not taken the largest ram but had the rams in the area pretty well spooked. We hunted for 4 days and turned down a couple of good but not great rams. The injury was slowing me down but not too much. The thing I could not do was fall again or have a bad horse wreck! We ran out of places to look in that drainage and decided to go home for now. Rest the mules and both of us, then try again for another 10 days later in the season. Two weeks of work and rest had us both ready to go back. The question was where should we go after 3 weeks of rifle season and lot of rams already taken? Since the weather had been gorgeous we decided to go in deep and look in the alpine basins above timberline. Four hours later we set up a light camp and glassed the face of the mountain we were headed for in case some rams were low. A beautiful evening and morning of work turned up elk, deer, a small bull moose but no sheep. We packed up again for another two hour ride to our next camping spot. The mules performed great and earned their keep for the next year. After setting up camp, hanging the food on the bear pole to keep it away from the many grizzlies in the area we were ready to



look for rams. A short ride later we were set up with a huge amount of country to examine. It took a couple of hours but I finally found a group of rams however, I found them on the next mountain, a full days travel away. Not to worry we had a lot more places close by to look at before we would think of breaking camp to get a closer look at that group. The next morning Chris and I were right back in the same spot glassing and there are 4 rams on the mountain in front of us. Two were pretty good 6-7 year olds but I choose to keep looking. During the rest of the day we moved a couple of times and found more rams. They seemed to be running from something and wouldn't give us a good look, On our way back to camp we accidentally bumped the 4 rams from the morning. They went over the peak at 11000' and didn't seem to be slowing down. That is when I began to think tomorrow we might have to go around the other side of the mountain to see what else is over there. The next morning with the sun climbing over the mountains to our east we start glassing from the same location as yesterday. We are not expecting much after we spooked the 4 rams last night. However, it doesn't take 10 minutes to prove us wrong. One group of 7 rams is near the peak in the cliffs and 4 more are down low in the grassy basin. There are 3 that need some closer examination in the upper group and 1 in the lower bunch. The new 60mm Swarovski spotter I bought for this hunt is really helping. So is the digiscoping attachment I had built as I can zoom in on the pictures I am taking and evaluate each ram. There is one ram in the upper group that is

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a bit heavier in mass than the rest and broomed off heavy at the tips. Chris and I discuss options and decide when we have the opportunity we will cut the distance in half and try to see what the day will bring. Right now the ram I want is in the cliffs and not where we have a safe option for a stalk. We finally get our chance, move closer and yes this is a ram I will take. All we can do is wait for them to come down where we can get at them. Two hours before dark they come across the near vertical face of the mountain and drop into the grass at its base. The stalk goes as planned and a 165 yd. shot puts my ram on the ground. He ends up in a deep water cut next to the cliffs and we will not get him out today. All we can do is open him up to cool and hope the bears don't find him during the night. Luckily he is well hidden and we have not seen a bear track since we left the river at the base of this mountain.

A nervous night behind us and we are back at the ram. Nothing has bothered him and we take our time taking photos and getting him out to the mules. Back at camp by midday the decision is made to stay and enjoy a relaxing night in camp. We hang the meat and all bloody clothing from a bear pole and enjoy one more mountain house dinner. Just as we are ready for bed Chris looks at

me and asks "did you hear that?" I listen closely and hear the growling of a bear at the meat pole. A short time later there is no drought we have company. The noises coming from the area near the meat is one mad Grizzly. He wants the meat and cannot get to it. We are not likely to get any sleep as long as he is this near to camp. After a couple of hours of this I decide to tie two of the mules right beside the tent and we go to sleep. Around midnight one of the mules gets restless and wakes us up. I step outside the tent door and watch the grizzly walk across the moonlit meadow, up the trail and out of camp. The next day tracks show he came all the way up the horse trail from the river valley to raid the meat pole. An uneventful next morning and a slow pleasant ride back to the truck wrapped up this great adventure. We are in one piece with a 9 year old broomed ram and memories to last a lifetime. Now surgery, 12 weeks of physical therapy and an end to this falls hunting. The adventure and all that goes with it is why I keep chasing rams anytime I can.

LM Chance Butler with his first Pronghorn Buck.



10 year old Frankie Maestri admires Granddad's buck

## Youth GALLERIES

13 year old Brandon Edmunds with his first buck. He is the grandson of Life members, Dan & Nila Clifton.



October 10, 2015



Kelly Collins with a nice barracuda.

John David Tator with a dandy Antelope that he guided Dad to last Fall



6 year old Tripp Montgomery with Life Member, Dirk Montgomery's 2015 Buck

McKenzie Marcovitz , aged 17, with her 2015 Antelope Buck.



Life Member Kurt Eisenach was very proud to have his son, Calvin, along for the Hunt

Life Members Kale and Kade Benton with their 2015 Fall Turkeys.

# 2016 Devil's Canyon Bighorn Sheep Capture

By James Hobbs, Lovell Game Warden, Wyoming Game and Fish Dept.

On the morning of February 20<sup>th</sup> 2016 it was cool and calm with very little wind at the mouth of Cottonwood Canyon just east of Lovell, WY. There was a large crowd gathered of approximately 50 individuals including personnel from the WGFD, USFS and Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation. There were also reporters, high school students and a variety of volunteers from the public. This is the second year this gathering has taken place and it is all for the improvement of Bighorn sheep in Wyoming.

"Do you hear that?" One volunteer asks. In the distance comes the thrumming sound of a helicopter rotor. The first batch of sheep is on its way to the staging site. The moment the helicopter disconnects from the captured sheep an internal bang goes off in everyone's heads. Like sprinters

from the blocks at a track meet, the crowd converges on the sheep to carry them back to the tables where they will be worked. The sheep are then sampled for respiratory pathogens, ear mites, blood is drawn, a fecal sample is taken and the ewes are checked to see if they are pregnant. An interesting side note, of the four yearling ewes captured and checked all four of them were pregnant. For that matter, of all the ewes checked all were pregnant. Lastly, each sheep is fitted with a GPS collar that will track its movements for the next several years. Each sheep is then placed in one of the 'ewe' haulers to transport them to the Ferris Mountains in the Lander region (see accompanied article for information of the release).

The same aerial net-gunning crew captured 25 sheep this year which was the same as last year. This included 20 ewes, three rams, a yearling ram and a ram lamb. The snow cover was nonexistent this year so there was a worry of the harm that could occur to the sheep when they were captured without the cushion of snow. The capture crew did a superb job on capturing the sheep with very minimal to no injuries on most all the sheep. Kudos to the capture crew! A big thank you goes out to all that were involved with this capture as it went off without a

hitch. All the sheep were captured, tested and placed in the trailers by noon of that day.

Over the last two years, 50 sheep have been captured and transplanted to the Seminoe and Ferris Mountains near Rawlins. Six sheep have been legally harvested. Two rams that were discovered near Hwy 14A and Five Springs were removed because they had traveled too far south and the threat of disease transmission was too high. Also, a number of sheep died of other causes. One was found and brought in to be plugged that was aged at 12.5 years old at the time of death. That same sheep was rough scored at 179 points. Even with all these reductions, the Devil's Canyon sheep herd still remains robust and healthy.

We will continue to monitor the population and



look forward to future transplants of Devil's Canyon sheep. One of the goals for this herd is to provide ram hunting opportunity. After, once again, working with the president of the family ranch/corporation that controls much of the access for hunting the sheep, we are providing 6 ram licenses for Sheep Area 12. That is an increase from 4. This will be the first year that a random license will

be available in the Devil's Canyon Sheep herd. This is a testament to the success of the Devil's Canyon herd. Thanks go out to many people for the successful reintroduction of this herd including the prior Greybull Wildlife Biologist Tom Easterly. Where ever you are now Tom, thank you for your hard work!

I have had the opportunity to meet many of the members of the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation as I have served on the Bighorn sheep working group for the past couple of years. This is also my fifth year working in the Lovell district and I want each of you to know that I am just a phone call away if you would like to talk about ensuring the continued positive progress of the Devil's Canyon sheep herd or any other topic for that matter. We need to always remember that it is and will be through working together and open communication that we can ensure the overall successful management of Bighorn sheep in the great state of Wyoming.

(Visit [www.wyomingwildsheep.org](http://www.wyomingwildsheep.org) for more photos)

# Sheep are in them thar Mountains.....

## Ferris/Seminole Bighorn Sheep – Reintroduction History and Update

By Daryl Lutz & Greg Hiatt, WY Game & Fish Dept

**Bighorn** sheep were first reintroduced into the Ferris Mountains in the late 1940s with two small transplants, one of which consisted of desert bighorn from Nevada. Neither produced a viable population. Slightly larger transplants were made into the Seminoe Mountains in the 1950s and 1960s but numbers never increased appreciably. In 1978 and 1980 one-hundred bighorn sheep from the Whiskey Mountain herd were released on the Morgan Creek Wildlife Habitat Management Area in the Seminoe Mountains. After initial losses and dispersal, a reproducing population was established. Growth rate was low, but animals were successfully recruited into the population. To expand the herd's size and range, another 100 bighorn sheep from Whiskey Mountain were released in the Ferris Mountains in January of 1985. Dispersal was high, but roughly 40 to 60 of the sheep remained in the herd unit.

Survival of bighorn sheep from these larger transplants was good, but both the Ferris and the Seminoe segments of the herd failed to thrive. Studies in 1989 through 1991 found lamb survival in both sub-herds was poor and likely due to lambs being born in June. This is well after the flush of spring vegetation, with ewes feeding on low protein forage during hot summer months leaving them unable to produce enough milk to keep most lambs alive. Prescribed fires to improve habitats and forage quality for bighorn sheep and supplemental transplants of bighorn sheep from “low elevation, non-migratory, early lambing sheep” were initiated. Bighorn sheep that fit the bill were acquired from Oregon in 2009 and 2010, and from the Devil's Canyon herd near Lovell in 2010 and 2015 and released in the Seminoe portion of the herd unit. These sheep typically lamb in late April and early May, when there is still adequate high-protein spring forage for milk production. Lamb production and survival improved and herd size increased, despite losses related to extensive wildfires in 2012 and severe spring blizzards in April 2013.

Some of the bighorn sheep released in the Seminoe Mountains crossed a frozen Seminoe Reservoir and established themselves in the Bennett Mountains. These sheep largely reside in habitats recovering from a 2007 wildfire on the south portion of the Bennetts. Other bighorn sheep settled on the north side of the Seminoe Mountains, regularly crossing the North Platte River at the Miracle Mile and use habitats on the north side of the Bennetts.



That brings us to 2016.....Once again with the financial assistance and help on the ground from WY-WSF, twenty-five bighorn sheep from the Devil's Canyon were on February 20<sup>th</sup> for trans location to supplement the Ferris-Seminoe herd unit. Of the 25 sheep, twenty-four were released in Miner's Canyon on the east end of the Ferris Mountains the next day. The release consisted of 20 ewes, 1 male lamb and three young rams. All but the lamb and one ewe with injuries on her neck were marked with satellite-up link telemetry collars. Unfortunately, one 3-year old ewe suffered from apparent capture myopathy and was unable to move. She was euthanized and sent to the Vet lab for necropsy and evaluation. As of March 4<sup>th</sup> 21 collared sheep (and we assume the two un-collared sheep) are ON THE MOUNTAIN. One collar's location system is not working properly. That collar is not emitting a mortality signal, so we assume it too is on the mountain and likely with the others. Two sheep have headed east to Bear Mountain and then Deweese Creek Canyon and are now in the Seminoe Mountains within the country some of the Seminoe sheep explored, but did not stay in. Two are in Sand Creek Canyon above the release site. Three are in the head of Miner's Canyon. The remaining 14 are one draw to the west of Miner's on the north face of the Ferris's. Assuming most of these sheep will remain in the Ferris Mountains and adding expected recruitment from a 2016 lamb crop, the herd is expected to reach ~ 140 animals by fall of 2016.

**THANKS AGAIN TO WY-WSF for your long-standing commitment to “put and keep bighorn sheep on the mountain.....”**

# John Shelton gets his Ram!

**J**on Shelton harvested the trophy of a lifetime this year, a beautiful ram from Hunt Area 22 in Wyoming's Absaroka Mountains. Achieving his lifetime dream wasn't easy, and Jon needed help to make his dream come true. You see, Jon is a wounded warrior who was poisoned while in Iraq serving his country. But thanks to an organization named "Hunting with Heroes" and especially due to the efforts of Tom Whitmire and Fritz Meyers, Jon found his Big Horn Ram. Jon who is 33, lives in Libby, Mt, with his wife, Tabitha, young son, Rhett, and newborn daughter, Tayten, and he lives for the outdoors, hunting and fishing are his favorite pursuits next to taking care of his kids. He has been able to hunt in Wyoming three times since his medical discharge from the Army as a 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Specialist. First an antelope, then an elk, and now the Big Horn Sheep thanks to the "Hunting with Heroes" folks.

The "HWH" non profit was founded just over three years ago by some caring Casper, WY folks whose mission statement reads:

"Giving back to our nation's disabled veterans. Honoring our heroes with unique hunting, fishing and other outdoor experiences." According to their website: <http://huntingwithheroes.org/about/program/>: "Hunting with Heroes is a non-profit and charitable organization, formed in 2013, dedicated to giving back to disabled veterans who served our country and sacrificed to keep us safe. Hunting with Heroes is honored to provide hunting, fishing and other unique outdoor experiences to our nation's disabled veterans. Working with state agencies, landowners and local volunteers, Hunting with Heroes offers custom programs designed for the unique needs of each disabled veteran – programs designed to boost our disabled veterans morale, build lasting memories and enduring friendships. Partnering with the Wyoming Game and Fish, and using

their big game donated license program – a program that allows anyone to donate a big game license to be reissued to a disabled veteran – Hunting with Heroes matches veterans with a license, provides guide services, rifles and other gear, game processing and room and board if



required."

**T**om Whitmire believes in the HWH mission and he donates his time to arrange hunts and guide hunters on their Wyoming dream hunts but on this one he went one BIG step further. Tom knew that he had about enough preference points saved up to receive a license in some of Wyoming's BHS hunt areas during 2015. He also knew about Jon Shelton, and Jon's dream to hunt a Big Horn ram, if only time and his health would allow it. Jon didn't think it would ever happen because

he knew there wasn't enough time left for him to earn the points needed to receive a Wyoming BHS license.

Tom Whitmire told me he already has one ram and that donating his license back to the G&F so that it could be awarded to Jon was something he thought over and decided was the right thing to do. That should tell you all you need to know about the character of Tom Whitmire. You see he too is a hero. Find out more about the G&F donation process at :<https://wgfd.wyo.gov/Hunting/Licensing-for-Veterans>)

Now Jon had his Wyoming Big Horn Sheep license and some financial help from HWH to make his dream a reality. All he needed was a guide, and not just any guide. Jon has medical issues that prevent him from riding horses or hiking deep into the mountains to find the home of the Wild Sheep. This is where Fritz Meyer enters the picture. If you have been around the Wyoming Wild Sheep chapter you know Fritz. He has a plaque on the wall of his trophy room commending him for being the longest serving board of director's member in the history of our organization. He has life member number 14 in our chapter and never misses an event. Fritz and his wife Connie make their home in Dubois, WY where he operates Wind River Mountain Outfitters. Visit with Fritz at: <http://www.windrivermountainoutfitters.com/>.

Fritz and Connie donated their services to Jon and the hunt was on.

Jon tells me that they hunted for 13 long hard days. Most of it was spent glassing the badlands country around Dubois that Fritz knows like the back of his hand. They endured the Wyoming wind and long days of not seeing any rams. Tom Whitmire was with Jon for 5 or 6 days before he had to return to his job in Casper. At last on the

**H**e took a deep breath, remembered his training, and dropped the ram with the third shell.

12<sup>th</sup> night, Fritz told Jon that he knew the sheep would be moving the next day.... And they were. When Jon saw his ram across a big Wyoming badland canyon at 515 yards he got so emotional that he was trembling. The wind gusted just as he pulled the trigger on his first shot and he missed. He thought his hunt was all over, but Fritz calmed him down and the ram stayed put. Jon sighted through the scope and pulled the trigger again..... another miss. He took a deep breath, remembered his training, and dropped the ram with the third shell.

A wounded veterans's dream of harvesting a Wyoming Big Horn Sheep has been achieved. The veteran is fulfilled and so are the hearts of a bunch of other outdoorsman who helped that dream come true.

Thank God for people like Tom Whitmire, Fritz Meyer, and the Hunting with Heroes crew who give so much of themselves to pay back our veterans who sacrificed so much for our country. They epitomize the spirit that makes our country and our Wild Sheep organizations great.

Tim Sundles collected a beautiful Dall Sheep from the North Brooks Range.





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



**N**ational Bighorn Sheep Interpretive Center Executive Director, Sara Domek with her 2015 Elk.

Life member, Will Loeper found his Wyoming Ram in 2015



Life Member Steve Kutzer with his 2015 Trophy

Life member Jim Collins hunted this Muntjac in England with Kevin Downer and Kevin has graciously donated a Roe Deer hunt to our Live Auction for this June!

# Member's MGallery

**M**embers 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).



Life Member Dan Hinz and his Nevada Buck



Life member, Ian Tator and four friends harvested these Caribou on the North slope of the Brooks Range.



Dan & Nila Clifton purchased this 10 bird hunt at the 2015 life member breakfast. They added a few more birds to the release, and took the kids hunting, Left to right; Dan Clifton, Casey Edmunds, Austin Edmunds, Brandon Edmunds, This was Austin's 1st official gun carrying hunt at 10 years old. They also had two young dogs along, the chocolate lab is Moose and he is 6 months and the yellow on the right is Annie and she is 11 months old.



Jim Benardin sent this Ram photo taken near his home in Wapiti



Life Member #57, Dyrk Eddie, with his Canadian Moose



Life Members Nancy Liebert and husband Leonard with her 2015 Wyoming Moose.

# Wyoming's Most Patient Sheep Hunter

By Don Farrier

Well it was that time of year again to open up the email from Wyoming Game and Fish and I'm pretty sure I was to be disappointed again. I know, not very positive but after applying all those years, (43 to be exact), begins to get a little old reading "unsuccessful". I could have put in for different areas in Wyoming and drawn a few years back just because I had full preference points but hiking in the hills west of Wheatland Wyoming, I have seen Bighorn sheep that even Montana sheep hunters

would say, Man he's huge. So my wait continued.

However, the time was upon us Wyoming sheep hunters again. Would this be the year? The coveted tag everyone waits for. I opened up the Wyoming Game and Fish department website and went to the draw results, entered in my information, and up popped the results. Yes, I looked twice, three times.

I instantly printed it off just to make sure it was in my hands. **SUCCESSFUL ON BIGHORN SHEEP.** Could not believe what I was seeing. Yes, there were some emotions that took over.

Well I lit up all my family and hunting buddies phones with the news. They all have been rooting for me for all those years. (Plus they were sick of me "bitch'n about it).

Scouting took place and we spotted fifty sheep, 22 rams and five of those being huge. I'm pumped. I tried my luck with archery first. (its only my second year but did have spot and stalk antelope under my belt.) The second time out I was on six sheep with one that would be in the 175 class. The wind was right but they were moving away, and just went over a ridge 200 yards from me. There were trees and rocks all around so cover was excellent. When I got to the

ridge and thought that I was within about 50 yards, I looked back down the hill and there goes the six rams that I was stocking. What happened!!! Exciting but, man, I thought I was in there.

Rifle season opened up September 1<sup>st</sup> and brother Ken was along for the hunt. Three days of 85 degree weather and sightings of small rams drained ones hope just little. I still had a license in my pocket though and plenty of hunt days ahead.

Every day, Ken and

I were blessed with rattlesnakes in our path. Well what did one expect in southeastern Wyoming on 85 degree days.

On September 4<sup>th</sup> a few friends wanted to go along with me and brother Ken so a plan was established. Brian Artery and his wife Kim, along with Steve Sherard made up the group. Pizza was ordered first because we were to stay in the



mountains for five days. Arriving at our designated spot at 1:30 in the afternoon, we put on our backpacks and took off. 500 yards down the creek, we stopped and glassed up the hill. Twelve rams were looking down on us and three of them were big. My comment to the crew was, we got to go and now.

My brother and Brian followed me up the mountain. When we got to where we were to be just across the draw from where we saw the band of rams, We saw nothing. Glassing back down to where we left Kim and Steve, they were motioning the rams were moving up. OK, off we go again. We went another 500 yards and we glassed back down again, same thing, they're moving up. We traveled up another 700 yards, and we spotted them 250 yards across the draw. They had no idea that we were there. Glassing through a spotting scope that Brian brought along we spotted the three big ones and I stated, the dark one was the best. I turned the spotting scope over to Brian and he quickly noticed something else. A monster of a ram. I got back into the spotting scope and my words then were exactly: "keep your eye on that one Brian, don't lose him". I set up for the shot, confirmed with Brian it was the one above the rest of the rams, on the upper rock, confirmed again it was the one facing east, asked Ken if he was ready, and the shot was placed. Perfect. Moving across the draw and upon our trophy, Ken, Brian and myself could not believe the size and mass of this sheep. We all could not keep from grabbing around the horns and stating how big it was. We also were looking for a tag or an old hole in the ear that could make this huge ram a transplant but one was never located. After the skinning and preparing the hide for a full mount, we loaded up the meat, horns and cape for the trek down the

**The ram went down with one shot and my forty three year quest for Bighorn sheep in Wyoming was complete!**

mountain. The packs were heavy as we traversed rocks, downfall, and slick grass, making our way down. We were within about 75 yards of the bottom, with a creek that needed to be crossed when Brian, who was leading, hollered out, "rattlesnake"! Great, we were almost to the bottom I thought, without a snake in sight today. With darkness upon us and the grass about two feet high, we decided to go back up the mountain 20 yards or so and move towards the north to remove ourselves from the threat of the snake. Even with our headlights on we still could not see through the tall grass. We crossed the creek and made it back to Kim and Steve who had been waiting patiently for us to get off the mountain. More pictures were taken and many handshakes took place. The task was complete.

After the 60 day waiting period, the ram scored 184 3/8 and was entered by an official Boone and Crockett scorer. It also ended up 14<sup>th</sup> all time ram ever taken in Wyoming.

There are many thanks to be given out for this hunt. The Wyoming Wild Sheep foundation, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, for maintaining and caring for these magnificent animals, and to my good friends, Steve Sherard and Brian and Kim Artery. Also to my hunting brother, Ken.

**Was the wait worth it? Absolutely!!!!**



Life Member, Kale Benton with his first elk

# Member Profiles



## Fritz & Connie Meyer Life Members #14 & 238 Wind River Mtn. Outfitters

I started guiding sheep and elk hunters in the early 70's for a variety of different outfitters around the Dubois, Wyoming area. In the mid 80's I jumped in and decided to buy a hunting camp and start our own business. When we bought the camp my wife Connie thought I was crazy, the seller pulled up to the house with the gear that came with the purchase. A rusted out camp stove(that went right to the trash), a tent with several holes in it, but the value was in the permit itself. We built the business up to where we were taking 15-20 sheep hunters per season and a good number of elk hunters, as well as deer, moose, and mountain lion hunters. We also included a good number of summer pack trips and trail rides.

I've had several interesting clients over the years, including Hank Williams Jr. and his wife, and several others who thought they were important! Probably the most rewarding hunts we did were some sheep hunts for Wounded Warriors and Hunting with Heroes. We really realize that were lucky to be doing what we do because of these veteran's sacrifices.

Between Guiding and outfitting I have been successful in taking over 400 rams with hunters. It's a great treat for us to see these hunters go home with a big smile on their face and a trophy of a lifetime to hang on their wall. Hunters have always come in as clients and leave us as friends!

I have also been actively involved in FNAWS, and Wild Sheep Foundation since shortly after they were founded, serving as a board member for many years.

We are happily handing the torch over to Cody Brown(life member 173?), and his Girlfriend(future wife) McCall Baer. Cody has guided for me since 1999 and is a native to the area. The grandson of Rollie Brown, who originally started the same camp in the late 50's, takes great pride in sheep hunting as well.

Its exciting for us, and Cody, that he is following in Rollie's, and my footsteps chasing these big rams around the mountains. He has been with in good times and bad times, we wish him all good times in his future endeavor. I know he will carry on sheep hunting well into the future and fulfill many more sheep hunter's dreams.

(Editors note: Fritz was too humble to tell our readers that he went 13 for 13 on his 2015 Sheep hunts. Or that he took two wounded veterans on sheep hunts last year. Read about their hunts in this edition).





Cody, McCall, and Griz



Fritz

## Freddie Goetz, Life Member #6

I was born in Fairfield, CA and have lived in Cheyenne and Wheatland most of my life. My wife, Glenda, and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary this past September. I retired from a farm dealership in 2004 after working there for 37 years. Now I have more time to work in my yard and watch the Big Horns in Wyoming. My Passion for Big Horn sheep started back in the late 60's so I have been watching and taking photos of Big Horns for the past 50+

years. During these years I have taken over 6800 photos of Wyoming Big Horns.

In December of 1982 I was in Dubois filming Big Horn sheep when John Suda said he was having a few guys over for drinks and to talk Big Horn sheep. There were 5 other guys and myself when we started talking. We soon decided it was time to organize a Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation. The first two or three years we had our annual meeting then we started getting more members and we started moving the meeting around the state.

After a few years I became a board member and served on the board for around 10 years. I have always looked forward to our annual meeting to meet and greet old and new friends.

What I enjoyed most of all in these years is that after 47 years I harvested my first Big Horn sheep in 2014. He was a 6 month old lamb when he was released in the Laramie range in 2007.

**My Big Horn sheep was Montana born and Wyoming raised!**





Photos by  
Freddie Goetz





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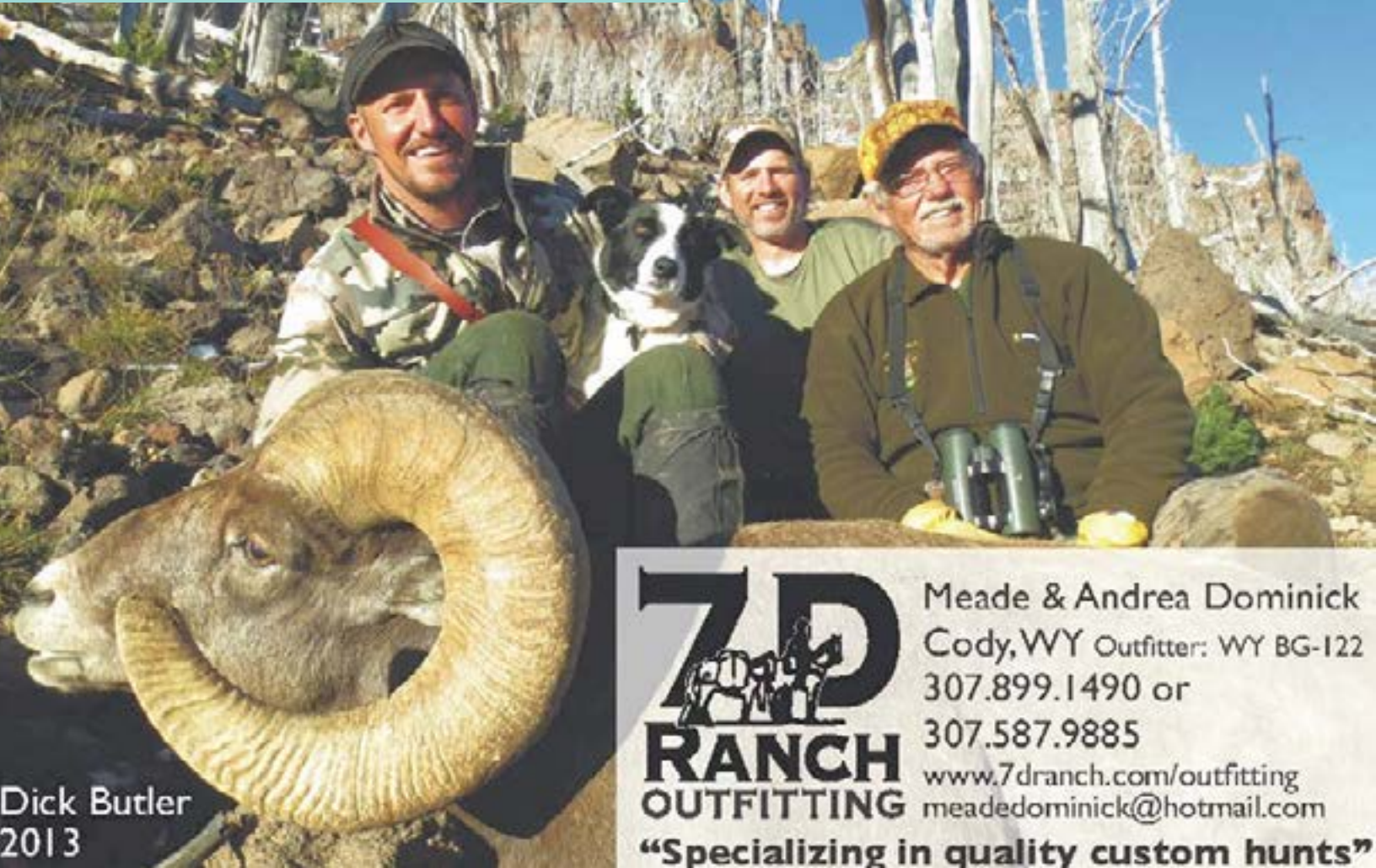
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Life Member, Gage Porter hunted down this awesome 2015 Whitetail!



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**"Specializing in quality custom hunts"**



# Ben Jackson Bags Super Tag Trifecta Ram

Laying on the cold ground the beads of sweat were freezing to my forehead as I looked through the scope. “Are you ready?” Said a voice. It came as more of a command than an inquiry. “I think so” was my reply. The voice, clear and calm said, “Hold right on him, gently squeeze the trigger, and remember: no warning shots.” With that, I placed my finger over the go switch and gently pulled back. CLICK. The firing pin echoed through an empty chamber. The sound of metal on metal resonated down my spine. How did I get here and who was this voice?

It began months before on a hot July day in law office in Wyoming. I was working my way through phone calls and stacks of legal papers, while counting down the days until the return of archery season. The

telephone rang and the caller id showed the call was from a “777” pre-fix. From experience in my law practice, I knew this was a Wyoming government agency calling; I did not know that the “777” was about to be my lucky number. I answered the phone and on the other end was the Director of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. He asked me how my license drawing success was this year, a question I expected he knew the answer to already. I had drawn an antelope tag but was not successful

in any of the other applications. “Good news,” he said, “you won the Wyoming Super Tag Trifecta Raffle”. It took me a few minutes to even realize what he was saying or the gravity of the situation. Then I remembered that Wyoming had created the Super Tag Trifecta Raffle to raise funds for wildlife projects in the state. The winner is able to choose three species from a list of nine, and hunt them statewide,



in any open area, subject to a few minor restrictions. Naturally, I told them I wanted a license for moose, mountain goat and also the rocky mountain big horn sheep.

The decision seemed natural at first, then I realized I had not seen a big horn sheep or mountain goat in years, even though I had lived in this state all of my life. I had never been fortunate enough to draw a tag, so I had never really planned a hunt for them. I was a few short months away from season

opener with shiny piece of paper allowing me to hunt in multiple areas. I turned to Internet searches, friends and neighbors for advice. A good hunting friend of mine, Ryan Browne, told me he had someone for me to talk to about the sheep hunt. That someone was a Wyoming native named John Porter with Morning Creek Outfitters in Cody, Wyoming. I called John and introduced myself. That was the first time I heard “the voice” that would later guide me through my hunting and shooting experiences. John is a professional, after 15 minutes of talking to me about sheep shape, ballistic coefficients, and trophy aspirations, he knew he had his work cut out for him. I was as rookie as you could be and I did not know the first thing about finding a ram or what equipment was needed. I had the ticket for adventure and he was going to make sure I was ready for this extreme once in a lifetime experience.

I began daily workouts and the ritual magazine reading. I started purchasing the high-altitude light-weight equipment needed for the trip to the top of Wyoming’s highest mountain ranges. Weekly trips to the shooting range fell into my routine. I had six weeks to prepare for the season opener of a hunt that many prepare for their entire lives.

John invited me to Cody for shooting lessons

I soon realized I would be seeing more grizzly bears than people on this hunt.

in August. The trip changed my definition of long range shooting. Sitting at the range waiting for me was a Best of the West long range system, known as the 28 Nosler. I was use to the 250-300 yard shots on deer and elk in Wyoming. I had never contemplated shots of 600 yards or more. Our first set of targets was at 1000 yards. John painfully watched as I jerked the trigger while buckling back from my prone position. He politely referred to it as flinching. After a few hours of instruction, it appeared that I would flinch on the first shot at any distance. Thereafter, I would settle down and put the bullet in the bullseye. We joked that I was giving the target a warning shot. This was not something you would want to do on a big horn sheep.

With the right equipment, right practice, and right guide, I headed to the mountains with my super tag in hand. I met John at the trail head. The pack string was loaded and we replaced our cell phones with pistols and headed into the wilderness. The ride was hours through tall pines, deep canyons and old burn scars. I soon realized I would be seeing more grizzly bears than people on this hunt. The destination was to find a remote glassing point to give us a better view of the daunting peaks surrounding us. Our pack string stopped in a wide spot on a narrow trail. John pointed to a scree field and proclaimed he had hunters that have taken a dandy ram out of that spot before. I was not John’s first hunter of the year and he had already had great success with two others. Still, I could not tell if he was joking or serious. The spot he was referring to looked inaccessible, and even if it could be reached, it was a place that no animal would consider visiting.

After giving the spot a thorough glassing, we moved further up the drainage where we encountered a pair of mountain goats. I had the tag but they did not have the size. Besides, this was a hunt for a rocky mountain big horn sheep and I needed to stay focused. Over the



next few days John and I saw numerous quality rams in places that I would never dream a sheep could walk, much less live.

It takes hours of glassing the mountainside when hunting for the perfect ram. We spotted a band of rams late one evening. They were only a mile from us, but hours away from being within shooting distance. The next morning we returned to the spot early. We pared down our gear to the essentials and began the climb. We reached a vantage point and stopped to glass. While John scanned the ridges I gasped for air and thought about the times when I cheated on my sheep shape workouts.

John's voice stopped my thoughts, "Ben, you are going to like what I see but not where I see it." I looked through the spotting scope and instantly had chills. A big lone ram was laying in the sun in a spot where John expected he would find him, at the top of Wyoming. The ram was 1300 yards away as the crow flies but still over an hour climb from being within my comfortable shooting range. This ram was the one I had been waiting for and we began the pursuit immediately.

Numerous giant cuts and steep cliff faces stood between the ram and our lookout. We would slide down one side just to climb the face of the next. John has 20 years on me but scurried up the rock faces like a chipmunk. I just tried my best not to let either of us down as we worked our way towards a ram that was out of sight, not knowing if he would be there at the end

of the climb. We finally hit a high point, 550 yards away from where the ram was lying in the sun. The big Rocky was still there and not suspicious of a thing.

Getting closer would not be an option. This ram was smart and had positioned himself to see danger from all directions. I set up my shooting nest and dialed my scope in to match the distance. No guess work would be needed with my new rifle set up at this range. As the frost melted from the ground, the ram stood to stretch in the sun.

In that moment, John's question of "Are you ready?" Began a process we had been practicing for months. I held the cross hairs on the vital area and squeezed off a dry fire. CLICK. No flinching and no jumping occurred. I placed a live round in the chamber and repeated the sequence. This time the rifle roared and the ram immediately fell to the ground. A well placed shot came without a warning. I had tagged my Wyoming Rocky Mountain Big Horn Sheep!

We were still over an hour away from reaching where the ram had been standing and was now laying. This was big mountain country and it required the right expectations, equipment and endurance. We spent the next several hours retrieving the ram from his perch and hiking him out on our backs. We were all exhausted as we reached the horses hours after darkness had fell. It had been an extreme hunt and it ended with an extremely great animal.

## "Blasts from the Past"-Do you know these guys?



# The Desert Sheep completes Frank's Slam

By Frank Maestri

It was a cool February morning in Wyoming. My wife and I had just come in for breakfast after checking the cattle on our ranch. The phone doesn't ring around here often, so when it did, I thought to myself, "Now what?" To my surprise it was my friend and hunting guide Brandon Ponath in Alberta, Canada. Brandon went through the small talk of "how was I, how was the family etc." As he did this,

in the back of my mind I was thinking and wondering the real reason for the unexpected call from my sheep guide. He said, "Frank, I have a lead on a cancellation hunt for a desert on Tiburon." My heart sank and the excitement filled my soul. "Okay, back to reality Frank," I thought to myself. Brandon filled me in on the details that he had. I hung up the phone telling him that I would get back to him, but not before he said to me in that

familiar Canadian accent, "Oh Frank! Think it over. We have an opportunity to go SHEEP hunting! On Tiburon Island!"

My wife had a peculiar look on her face. She said with a smile, "What is Brandon Ponath calling for hun?" I hesitantly explained to her that it was last minute cancellation hunt on Tiburon Island, it was less than half price, 2 weeks prep time, no gun permit would be available in that short of notice, Sonora Dark Horn Adventures

was the outfitter, it would be a no frills hunt, Brandon would be going along with another guide named Sergio (SDHA), we would fly into Hermosillo, Mexico, it would be a tough hunt, it is less than half price. She smiled again and said to me, "Well hun, 2 weeks is not much time to get in sheep shape, so you better get hiking."

My emotions were all over the place. Is my wife really saying, "Yes Go? I can't do this, I can't pull this off.

There is no way this can happen in 2 weeks." I kept thinking to myself. After thinking this over for half a day, my thoughts went to..., "I need a whiskey." As all sheep hunters know, there is something within us that pulls us towards the beautiful terrain in which these majestic animals



live. I kept picturing the hunt. I went round and round in my head all day long wondering what to do. In my confusion and turmoil my wife stepped in and informed me that around 5pm we were headed over to our neighbors, Cole and Elaine Benton's for a cocktail and some sound advice and clarity. Cole and Elaine own Grizzly Outfitters and Cole is a grand slammer, so I was curious what he

had to say about this hunt. Cole poured me an 8 seconds Canadian whiskey over ice and I began to explain the scenario to him and Elaine.

We talked in depth about the outfitter, going to Mexico, knowing all the small details, knowing the risks, money and of course our love to be in the mountains with the animal we respected the most... Sheep. Cole and Elaine sent us on our way, bringing to light many good points for us to think about over the next 24 hours. My next stop was Hartman Taxidermy in Sheridan, WY. Greg Hartman, another passionate sheep hunter explained to me that he had turned down a cancellation hunt for a stone's sheep hunt years ago and he was still kicking himself for not going. If I was trying to talk myself out of going to Tiburon Island, I was picking the wrong people to get advice from.

Part of me was hoping that when I called Brandon Ponath back to say, "Yes let's do this," he would say that the hunt

had already been sold. To my luck and dismay, it was still up for grabs. Next I called Sergio from Sonora Dark Horn Adventures. Sergio was adamant that I knew it would be a "bare bones" hunt, no frills, no guides there prior to scout out a ram, one good meal the 1st night and then mountain homes from there on out. He said the mountains there are rough and that, "the island has a way of chewing you up and spitting you out!" I bought plane tickets, organized my gear, hiked as much as possible and prayed that I would be in shape enough to make it all happen. Brandon assured me that I

Sergio, Brandon and I looked at each other and the cards that we had been dealt. "I guess we pack the essentials on our back and go UP!"

would be fine. "Guess what Frank?" He said, "We are going to Tiburon Island to complete your Grand Slam!"

Brandon and I stepped off the plane in Hermosillo, Mexico and met up with Sergio. Sergio had spent the last 10 days organizing the hunt. The biggest hurdle was organizing the transportation to and from the island with the Suri Indians. The details of that were still, even now, a little hazy. We loaded up the gear on two small motor boats that were tied together. I had an uneasy feeling about how we were going to get back to the mainland as we headed across the Infiernillo Channel. We arrived at Tiburon Island and set up our camp, had a steak dinner and tried to get some sleep. In the morning we loaded up the 4x4 ranger, drove about 5 miles, until we noticed we had a flat. Sergio, Brandon and I looked at each other and the cards that we had been dealt. "I guess we pack the essentials on our back and go UP!" I said. We packed 4 days of water, and only what we absolutely needed.

We trekked up until we reached the top. We would hike and glass, hike and hydrate and glass and hike some more. The rocky terrain was no place comfy to sleep. We pawed out our beds as the sheep do, ate some mountain homes and hoped tomorrow would be our lucky day. We awoke to fog and very limited visibility. We hiked to various canyons and ridges only to come up empty handed. The fog hid the sheep from our view for 3 full days. On day 4 we awoke to blue skies, the better visibility led to miles of straight up and then straight down. The bugs attacked, the plants prodded at us and the desert air parched us. The afternoon of day 4 took a whole new spin. About a mile out we spotted 4 rams bedded down in their rugged home, unaware that we existed. We set up the spotting scope for a better look, they were in a great spot and very approachable. We watched them through the

spotting scope and started to make a plan for a stalk, when one of the rams was stung by a bee. The ram jumped up! All his buddies jumped up and off they ran. Keeping my discouragement at bay, Brandon and I headed in the direction that the rams ran, Sergio stayed up top with the spotting scope and we communicated through radios. Brandon and I reached another good vantage point and we spotted a single ram bedded down in a cave. We watched and waited for another 2 hours. As evening approached the ram stood up and started feeding and soon after all 4 rams were in our sights again. They were all good rams, but 2 of them stood out and I mean “Boone and Crockett” stood out! We figured both rams would score about the same. One ram had longer horns with lighter mass and the other had shorter horns with heavier mass. The three of us deliberated about the two rams and came to the conclusion that the heavier tight curled ram was the ONE.

The ram was feeding about 450 yards away. I was using a borrowed 300 Winchester as I did not have the time to get the gun permits to bring my own. We had put in the time, hiked the miles, endured the weather and now the dream of completing my grand slam was right here in front of me. It had taken all three of our strength, determination and perseverance to get here. This was Brandon and Sergio’s ram just as much as it was my ram. We had all spent the last 4 days earning this moment. I took it all in, I took a deep breath and locked away this treasured memory forever. Brandon and Sergio looked again and said the ram was still 450 yards away. I missed the 1st three shots on the ram. The 4th shot was successful and the ram was down.

As I walked up to the ram, a sense

of great accomplishment overwhelmed me, tears welled up in my eyes, and to harvest a big horn desert sheep to fulfill my grand slam on Tiburon Island seemed so surreal. All the small obstacles of timing, flat tires, engine issues, fog, cactus and bees simply disappeared. I climbed to the top of the ridge and used the satellite phone to call my wife. We briefly celebrated on the phone and I hiked back to camp just in time to toast a shot of Casa Maestri Tequila that my father makes. Brandon had packed that bottle of tequila around this last 4 days in hopes to have this celebratory toast amongst the three of us. As we bedded down for the night, knowing that we had about an 8 mile hike out the next morning, the weather got the best of us again. A major downpour continued all night long. As I lay there getting soaked, I could hear the words of Jack O’Connor, “The sheep hunter is willing to climb until his lungs are bursting, to walk until his legs are dead weary, to grow hungry and thirsty for great rewards. There is no half way.”

We hiked out the next morning, unsure if our ride would be waiting at the water. We made it 8 miles to the 4x4 with the flat. The ranger fired up and we drove 5 miles on the low rim



tire, as we had already used our spare. When we arrived at the dock the Commander of the boat was waiting and we all had a sigh of relief. We arrived at Hermosillo, MX, found a cantina and enjoyed a hot shower. I was looking forward to heading home the next morning. After I arrived at home I continued to tank up on water as I knew I had pushed my body to its' physical limits. Usually after I come home from a sheep hunt I can jump on the scale and notice a 10-15lbs. weight loss. This time I noticed a 20lbs. weight gain. "Odd," I thought as I looked down at my swollen feet, ankles and legs. I knew I had bug bites everywhere and small wounds where the plants had poked at me but maybe something was not quite right on the inside. I took my blood pressure and pulse. Blood pressure high and pulse...38.! I figured I was just still dehydrated. My wife and I monitored my B/P and pulse over the

next 24hrs, it was remaining high and my pulse was staying about 38-42. My wife said if there was no change in the morning we were heading to town to get it checked out. Mid-morning the next day the dam broke loose in my system. Apparently my kidneys had shut down momentarily and now decided to start working again. They kicked into overdrive and I lost 20lbs. of water weight in about 12hrs. Sergio was very accurate when we had our very 1st conversation, "This Island has a way of chewing you up and spitting you out!" I was very happy to be home and to have my big horn desert sheep on its way.

Thank you to my supportive wife, Kirstin, my guide Sergio of Sonora Dark Horn Adventures, my friend and guide Brandon Ponath and the beauty and challenge of The Isle of Tiburon for a memorable hunt to achieve my Grand Slam.



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# Meet your Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation Board Members

## Kurt Eisenach

*As our membership has grown substantially over the past year, it is possible that some of you haven't met all of the board of directors members. We will introduce ourselves to you over the next few issues in this column. Your board of directors are volunteers working to secure the future of wild sheep in Wyoming. Page one of this issue contains addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses for each of us. Please don't hesitate to contact us with ideas, concerns, or for any questions you have regarding your chapter.*

How do you start an article about yourself? I'll start by say I'm a just an everyday guy that is slightly crazy about the outdoors! I live and play in Wyoming because it is the best place I know to follow that passion. I am also passionate about preserving and making that outdoor life better for all those around me. I have been blessed to be able to live and make my living in Wyoming since 1981. I have worked as a locomotive engineer for BNSF Railroad for 37 years. My very understanding wife Juanita of 25 years and her two cats put up with my four mules and me in Big Horn WY. We have sons age Joseph 19 and Calvin 22. Joseph is a freshman at Sheridan Jr College and Calvin graduated in 2015 from MSU Billings. I guess my favorite outdoor activity has been high country hunting since I went on my first elk hunt. I really got hooked on sheep when a friend at work invited me along to help when his 16 year old son drew a sheep tag in area 1. As we all know you either love it or never go again! If you look at the hunting articles in this issue you will know I got hooked bad. A trio of trips to Alaska and a pair to the Yukon attest further to that sickness. I decided to take the leap and volunteer for the WSF board 3 years ago as the boys started to leave home and time away from work became available. I chose this organization to devote my time too because it makes a huge difference in the present and future of something I care deeply about. I will hopefully retire from BNSF in 2017 and have more time to make a difference for the outdoors I cherish. I attended my first national Wild Sheep convention this year. While on the board I have helped with the web page update and annual banquet work. I was elected vice president of the chapter in 2016 and hope to continue making a valued contribution. I believe this organization can, with the membership's ideas and support, facilitate even more successes in the sheep mountains we love. I look forward to meeting and talking sheep with anyone that is passionate about making a difference for the future of our wild sheep and outdoor lifestyle!





# Wild Sheep Foundation board intern update

Sierra Amundson

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary definition of “intern” includes: “a student or recent graduate who works for a period of time at a job in order to gain experience.” This definition did not include “will be presented with an opportunity to lobby in Washington D.C. for the betterment of wild sheep”, or “will attend a record-breaking Sheep Show”, or “will give speeches to rooms of people more greatly populated than my entire high school”. But this intern received all of this experience and more in the last 8 months!

Since being selected as the first Wild Sheep Foundation Board of Directors Intern a little over a year ago, I have

gained an immeasurable amount of experience talking to congress people about wild sheep issues, understanding the protocols and participating in professional meetings, and interacting with the Wild Sheep Foundation Professional Resource Advisory Board to better understand wild sheep disease transmission and ecology, to name only a few! In September, 2015, I traveled with the WSF Legislative

Affairs Committee to Washington D.C. where we met with various senators and representatives from the western U.S. The objective of this fly-in was to generate Congressional support that would urge the United States Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management to move forward with identifying high-risk of contact

domestic sheep grazing allotments, as well as identify alternative allotments that are of little-to-no risk to bighorn sheep. The most exciting part of the trip for this Wyoming native was the day that we met with Senator Barrasso. I spearheaded the conversation throughout the meeting and was able to convey the information that was important to the goal of this trip to my home state’s attentive Senator Barrasso. The degree of separation between bighorn and domestic sheep is crucial to the survival of bighorn sheep and the trip to D.C. not only enlightened congresspeople of the importance of the issue, but also generated some excitement within the

Wild Sheep Foundation organization, as legitimate progress was made. Since college started, I have been working part-time at the Wyoming State Vet Lab, assisting a graduate student with brucellosis research. I have been gaining valuable experience in lab techniques and continuing to job shadow people that are in the veterinary science field. I attended my second




Sheep Show in Reno, Nevada, the “Biggest Little City in the World,” where a new record for registration and attendance was broken. Being raised in a town of 3,500 people, the overwhelming number of people each day in the exhibit hall and night at the banquets and auctions was an exciting culture shock! On top of that, I was

chosen as the Youth Wildlife Conservation Experience keynote speaker for the second time, where I was given the opportunity to speak to over 500 Reno area youth about the importance of conservation and creating opportunities in order to pursue one's passions. I also gave the Wild Sheep Foundation Board of Trustees an update on my internship and all that I have learned, and did the same with the 500 Life Members in attendance at the Life Member Breakfast. At this breakfast, I gave a short update/introduction of myself and was generously gifted a Life Membership to the national Wild Sheep Foundation by WSF Staff Member, Buddy DuVall. Don't worry, I'm already a Life Member of the Wyoming Chapter, too!

I would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to the Wild Sheep Foundation for selecting me as the board intern and giving me the life-changing opportunities that it has, and the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation and its members for helping me pursue my passions, and for the interest you have in what I am doing to help wild sheep!

Sierra Amundson

WSF LM #2969, WYWSF LM #438

Read about the Moose Hunt that LM Tera Butler dedicated to Ron Lockwood on page 49 



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# An Update on The Palisades Mountain Goat Herd

By Gary Fralick and Ray Hageman

With drawing odds at less than one percent, and hunters able to receive just one of these licenses in their lifetime, drawing a mountain goat license in Wyoming for hunters is a pretty big deal. To continue to assure the long term growth and survival of Wyoming mountain goats, the Wyoming Game & Fish department has been working to accumulate data for one of the more notable mountain goat herds in Wyoming, the Palisades goat herd near the Idaho border of northwest Wyoming.

For the past three years, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Idaho Department of Fish and Game and Greater Yellowstone Mountain Ungulate Project have collected migration information on segments of the herd, documenting any interstate movements of collared goats, assessing juvenile production and recruitment, determining the presence of infectious diseases or other pathogens that could potentially be transmitted to bighorn sheep, and monitoring herd health during the winter.

Mountain goats wandered into Wyoming after Idaho Fish and Game transplanted the animals in the Snake River Range of southeastern Idaho in 1969 and 1971. By 1996, hunt area two in Wyoming was created with a population objective of 50 goats. Population surveys now estimate the herd exceeds 130 mountain goats. Management is conservative. Only 4-8 licenses a year have been issued since 1999, but 12 licenses will be issued in 2016. Mountain goats have also dispersed into Grand Teton National Park, and adjacent Wyoming bighorn sheep hunt areas 6, 7, 8, and 24, presenting the potential to transmit diseases to bighorn sheep because the Palisades goat population also occupies areas where domestic sheep are grazed.

The Palisades herd of Wyoming has never been subject to specific research and monitoring for the presence of disease and parasites. In the study, blood samples will be used to test for pregnancy, evaluate herd health, and provide DNA for research. Radio-collaring some of the goats provides migration data, and culture samples will determine the presence of bacterial pathogens that can cause pneumonia. As of December 2015 a total of 18 mountain goats have been captured, and of this number, 14 mountain goats have been radio-collared. So far, researchers say very little dispersal of mountain goats into adjacent occupied bighorn sheep herds has been documented with all radio-collared mountain goats traveling less than 3 miles between winter and summer ranges. Mountain goats have been observed in Grand Teton National Park and other areas of the Teton Range where there is a reproducing population. The Teton Range is the only location in western Wyoming where mountain goats are reproducing outside of the core mountain goat range in the Palisades herd. Competition for resources doesn't appear to be an issue yet, but as more mountain goats are radio-collared and monitored; these questions will likely be answered.

The Game and Fish department will continue to monitor and study this important natural resource with help from the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation's grant in aid program.



# Grand Teton Mountain Goats

By Sarah Dewey, Wildlife Biologist, Grand Teton National Park

I'm nestled in my sleeping bag in a back-country cabin up one of the canyons in the Tetons, when the 4 AM wakeup call comes. We're here to attempt to capture and radio collar mountain goats. It's still dark outside when we set off to climb the 1,500 feet up the canyon wall to the trap site. With the trap set, we descend to a ledge to wait. The images caught on the remote camera tell us that the goats were here just yesterday. We wait. We are treated to a morning thunderstorm, misty first light hitting the high peaks, and sunrise rainbows; but the only mountain goats we see this day are several miles away across the canyon in a high basin.

Mountain goats are magnificent, an iconic species representative of wild places, but they are not native to the Teton Range. The goats found here now are likely descended from those successfully transplanted to the Snake River Range, southwest of Jackson, Wyoming by the Idaho Fish and Game Department in 1969. At the time, this was a common practice used by wildlife managers to establish new wildlife populations for the benefit of hunters. By the late 1970s goats were seen in the Tetons, including within the boundaries of Grand Teton National Park, but sightings were sporadic and the mountain goats that ventured to the Tetons were thought to be transient. However, since 2008 park personnel have consistently

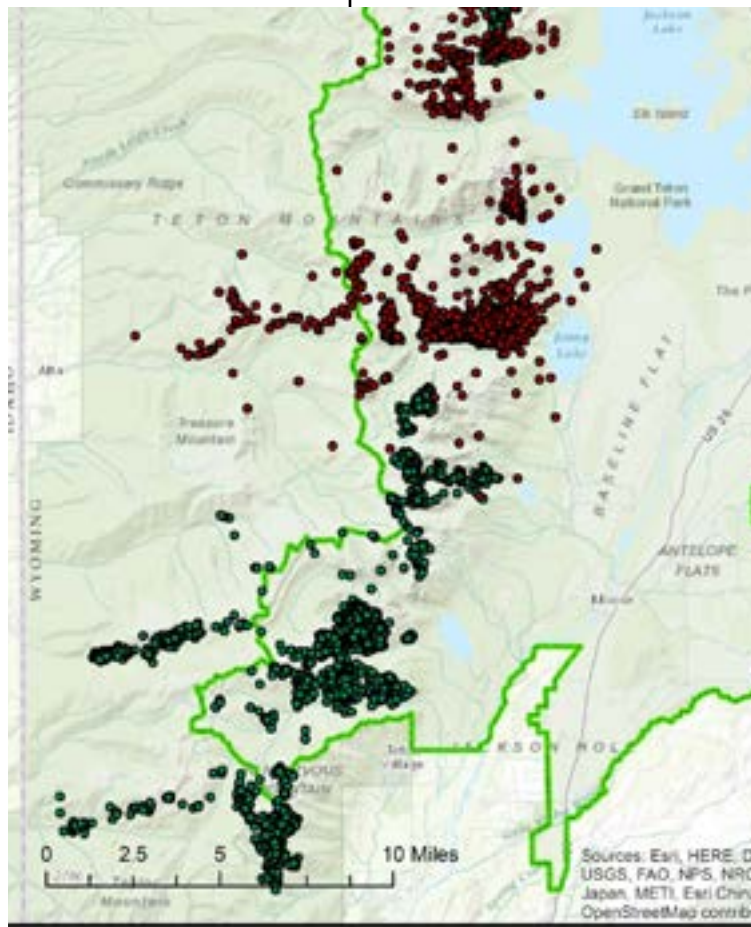
documented nannies with kids within the park, indicating that a breeding population of goats has become established.

The Teton Range is also home to a small population of bighorn sheep whose conservation status is of concern because of its small size, isolation from neighboring herds, low genetic diversity, and loss of historic winter range (see Aly Courtemanch's article in the last issue of

the Rampage). The Teton Range sheep herd is recognized as one of Wyoming's core native herds and a priority for conservation. The Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation and its supporters have invested over \$400,000 to support research, allotment buyouts, and monitoring with the ultimate goal of conserving the Teton sheep herd.

Because of the general tendency for mountain goats to inhabit the same

high elevation mountainous terrain that bighorn sheep use there is significant potential for range overlap between the two species that could result in competitive interactions and disease transfer. At best, these are but two more environmental stressors that the already tenuous Teton sheep herd can weather. At worst, these could be final the straws that 'break the camel's back' and send this native sheep herd into an irreversible decline



toward local extinction. Montana State University researchers recently developed a habitat model for mountain goats in the Tetons. They estimated the available habitat in the Teton Range could support approximately 250-400 mountain goats. The current Teton goat population is estimated at 40-60 animals. It took nearly 40 years from the original introduction for mountain goats to become established and seriously threaten the native bighorn sheep and the ecological integrity of the Teton Range. In another 40 years will bighorn sheep still reside in the Teton Range? We're at a conservation crossroads that has implications too important to be left up to chance. Accordingly, the National Park Service, with input from stakeholders and the public, is in the process of developing a plan to guide the management of nonnative mountain goats within the park and carefully assessing the potential risks they present. Part of that effort includes gathering baseline ecological data to help inform possible management strategies. Funding and in-kind support for this work has been provided by the Grand Teton National Park Foundation, Don and Judy Opatrny, Community Foundation of Jackson Hole, the Wyoming State Veterinary Lab, and the National Park Service.

Although our initial early morning capture efforts were not successful, we are now monitoring nine radio collared goats. With GPS location data relayed to biologists in near real-time via satellite unlink, we are learning a great deal about mountain goat numbers, distribution, movements,

and reproduction. The goats currently occupy the central portion of the Teton Range with bighorn sheep found at the north and south ends of the range (Figure 1). Disease samples collected from goats during capture and handling indicate they carry respiratory pathogens to which bighorn sheep may be susceptible. So far the Teton sheep have defied the odds. Monitoring and disease surveillance efforts on goats will continue as park personnel analyze potential threats and develop alternative management strategies. Getting a management plan in place quickly will be but one essential step in improving the long-term conservation prospects of this native bighorn sheep herd.



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# A Women's Perspective on Hunting

by Suzie Johns Sundles

I grew up on a central Montana cattle ranch where my father and brother hunted several big game species and so did a few of my friends that I accompanied on hunting trips, but never felt the urge to hunt for myself. I love the outdoors, fresh air, sights, exercise and the animals, more than I like to hunt them. When I married Tim Sundles, (in 2009) owner of Buffalo Bore Ammunition, I got introduced to pure hardcore hunting that was a passion for Tim, not just a pass-time. For the first few years we were together, I accompanied Tim on many back-pack hunts in the Rockies, where a lot of remote steep hiking and horse packing was required. I was happy just to see the sights and be out there, but eventually, after discussing it with Tim, decided to try some hunting for myself. My biggest concern was that I would not make clean quick kill shots as the thought of wounding an animal and having them suffer is more than I can bear. So Tim bought my first rifle for me, which was a Savage 7MM-08 and after a lot of shooting practice, I decided to spring bear hunt in Montana. I killed a beautiful brown color phase black bear and very much enjoyed hunting with Tim. That rug adorns a wall in my house.

Since that first black bear hunt, Tim and I have hunted many species together. He says he enjoys watching me hunt, much more than hunting for himself. This year alone (2016) I will hunt bull moose and Mt. Goat in AK, plus mule deer, elk, black bear and probably antelope (if I draw the tag) in Montana and Idaho. We might do some hunting in Wyoming and Utah too. In Jan. of 2017 I will hunt several species in HI and get some sun and warm weather during our rough Idaho winters. I was surprised to discover how many hunt-able species of big game exist in HI. Seeing various places in each state is very enjoyable. Tim is a researcher and we have quality hunts because of the time he puts into making sure we

will. He leaves very little to chance, which is how any serious endeavor should be approached..... hunting with Tim, is a serious endeavor. We have fabulous adventures together!

Tim asked me if I have a favorite hunt. I don't. Each hunt had its own set of dynamic challenges and enjoyment.....and they are all so different. The variety of hunting multiple species



in multiple locals is extremely enjoyable. My favorite trophy/home decoration will probably be my beautiful AK Brown Bear that I shot in 2015 in SE AK with Hans Bartel out of Juneau. Hans is a super accommodating outfitter and is very competent in his trade. His wonderful wife made our trip enjoyable with her great cooking and photography. Tim was impressed with Hans and as a result, booked his own Mt. Goat hunt with Hans for 2017.



welfare of big game populations in each state we hunt. The physical fitness required to do some of these hunts keeps me constantly training. There are few situations in life where everyone wins, but big game hunting provides recreation, physical exercise, great meat, great family time, unforgettable sights, fun memories and a monetary guarantee that big game populations will be strong, if the various state management agencies do their job. Never mind that the photos and the mounts adorn our houses and allow us to relive the memories.

I understand that women and hunting is a rapidly growing activity and can increase the amount of dollars for states to use in managing big game populations. As more women start hunting, those funds will be a big part of bringing to pass the necessary management of game animals so future generations have the opportunity to hunt.

The meat we harvest is both healthy and delicious if prepared correctly. If we end up with too much meat (and we do) we give it to folks who are happy to get it and feed their families. Because big game management dollars are derived from the purchase of licenses and tags, I know that Tim and I are contributing to the long term

**There are more women than men, in the US! I will probably be hunting big game for as long as my body will allow. Life is short—make it an adventure!**

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# Volunteers Needed! B.Y.O.S.

(Bring Your Own Shovel)

On the weekend of July 16, 2016, an opportunity will come for WSF members to gather together for a weekend of fun and assist in the installation of a water guzzler and precipitation catchment apron in the Seminoe Mountains, northeast of Rawlins, benefiting a growing herd of bighorn sheep in Area 17. Placement of the guzzler on the mountain will help to keep bighorns closer to escape terrain habitats and reduce travel distances to water. BLM (Rawlins Field Office) personnel will be delivering the guzzler and apron kit, and prepping the site with a dozer. Volunteers will be relied upon to set the tank, complete pipeline installation and plumbing, and help with contouring of the slope and laying out the catchment apron and securing in place with rocks. Livestock exclusion fence will be constructed around the tank area that will still allow for access by wildlife.

The Complete Wildlife Water Catchment Kit contains:

(1) Catchment Apron, 100' x 22.5' made of 40 mil thick textured, high-density polyethylene liner, pre-welded with a 2.5" diameter pipe boot and clamps.

(1) Well Screen, 2' long of four-inch diameter 20-slot stainless steel adapted with 2" ion pipe thread (IPT)

(1) Adapter (2" poly pipe x 2" male IPT)

(1) 250' roll of 2" diameter, 160 PSI, SDR 11, HDPE Pipe

(1) BOSS Complete Wildlife Water Catchment Tank (cross-linked polyethylene, 1800 gallons storage, with small animal ladder and 2" overflow adapter pre-installed).

You can view a diagram and see photos of the guzzler kits at: <http://www.bosstanks.com/guzzler.htm>.

We will be camping at the Miracle Mile on the North Platte River on Friday and Saturday nights. Restroom facilities are available, and the campgrounds are suitable for camper trailers or tents. There'll be lots of time to talk around the campfire about bighorn sheep, swap hunting stories, strategize on how we can further the mission of the WSF, and share a cold beverage with fellow members of this great organization! Fishing poles, binoculars, and spotting scopes aren't required, but may further add to your enjoyment of the weekend.

A few UTV's are needed to ferry volunteers up the mountain to the project site. If you can provide this service, please let us know. Volunteers should plan to bring hand tools (shovel, fencing pliers, hammer, heavy rake, pick ax, etc.) with them.

There will be a volunteer sign-up sheet at the June fund raiser in Casper, or you may contact Ryan Amundson (WGFD Habitat Biologist) at: [ryan.amundson@wyo.gov](mailto:ryan.amundson@wyo.gov) or (307) 331 -0787 to RSVP by July 1, 2016.

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# Dedicated to Ron Lockwood

By Tera Butler

**In** May of 2015 I had found out that I had drawn a type 1 moose tag for area 26. I talked with Scott and he told me that Ron Lockwood was working in that area and he may be able to give me some advice and pointers on where to look. During the Annual Banquet in June of 2015 I was able to talk with Ron and ask him some questions. His eyes lit up and begin helping me out immediately. We visited for a while on where to go, what to look for and he offered to go and help out with the hunt. I was way excited to get to have Ron be with me for my hunt. In July we had found out that Ron had passed away due to complications. I was

saddened to know that he would not be going with me on my hunt.

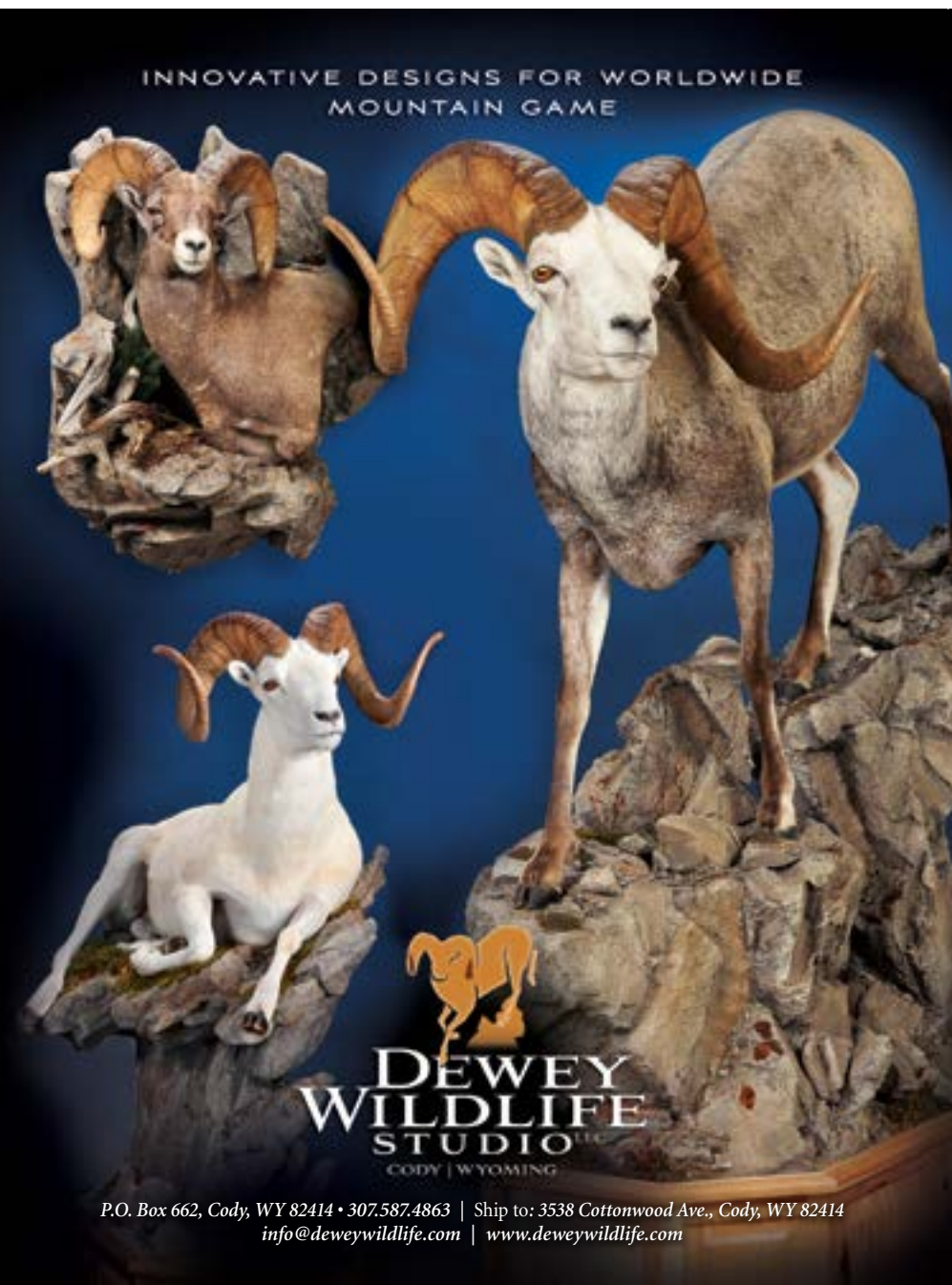
The time came to go scouting my area because none of us had hunted there before. I would think of what Ron told me to look for and where to look. He was right! We spent a few days scouting and saw a few moose and some beautiful country. I could see why Ron called this part of country his home.

Two weeks later, with my husband and father in law, we headed back across the state to find me a moose. I kept thinking, I wish Ron would be with us but then I realized he would be, maybe not physically but spiritually. Every morning I would wake up and

ask Ron to give us a sign of where to find me a moose. As the days passed with multiple sightings and not the right moose I would look up and say, "Ron give us a flat tire or some sign to know we are going the right way."

One bull we had found, bedded down in an Aspen patch but no really good way to get to him with my bow without spooking him out of his bed. We decided to back out and just let him be. It was opening day of rifle season and I wanted to go find the aspen bull. We went past were we had seen him earlier that week but there was no sight of him. We turned around and were headed to another spot to look for another bull and I asked Ron again please help me find this one moose. As we passed the Aspen patch, there he was coming up from the creek. We had gone right past him and didn't even know he was there.

I was able to shoot this awesome bull at about 90 yards. After two shots, I heard Scott say, "go get your moose!" He had fallen into a small beaver pond and I looked up and told Ron, "Thank you my friend for your help". It was a hunt I will remember forever. I dedicated my moose hunt to Ron Lockwood, a man with an infectious laugh, a sparkle in his eye and just a great man and conservationist.



# Wyoming's Super Tag Trifecta

## The Ultimate Western Hunting Adventure

Many hunters aspire to pursue species like bighorn sheep, mountain goat, and Shiras moose. The problem is getting a license. Where licenses are randomly allocated by lottery, draw rates are typically in the low single digits. Alternatively, it can take decades of building preference points before a license is obtained.

There is a way; however, to circumvent the process. The Wyoming's Super Tag Trifecta raffle allows the winner to hunt three such species in a single season! The lucky few who win the Trifecta are set up for experiencing the ultimate western hunting adventure.

Ben Jackson, from Cheyenne, Wyoming, had this opportunity by winning the Super Tag Trifecta in 2015. Choosing which species to hunt from the nine offered was not easy (bighorn sheep, mountain goat, Shiras moose, elk, wild bison, deer, antelope, mountain lion, and black bear). Ben decided to go after bighorn sheep, mountain goat, and Shiras moose, although wild bison was a close contender.

Ben's first trip was an archery hunt for moose in the Snowy Range. On the second full-day of hunting, Ben got a nice bull. The bull had some extra points on his right antler that dropped down instead of curving up, giving him a completely unique look.

The morning of September 20<sup>th</sup> found Ben at a Forest Service trail head near Meeteetse to begin his bighorn sheep hunt with Morning Creek Outfitters. On day four of the hunt, Ben decided to go after a ram that was spotted earlier. While placing a pack on his horse, the animal stumbled forward, knocking Ben to the ground. A protruding saw blade left a five-inch gash in Ben's leg. The injury ended the hunt and completing the rest of the Trifecta was now in doubt.

The doctor told Ben that he needed at least two weeks rest. Every time Ben's tried to exercise his legs beyond short, slow walks the wound would open.

On October 1<sup>st</sup>, Ben received a phone call from his outfitter. A friend had spotted a great ram during an elk hunt. Ben was nervous about the condition of his leg, but plans were made for a short trip. The ram was located several miles away through spotting scopes late in the evening on the first day of the hunt; however, heavy snows and strong winds that began that night and lasted for the next two days prevented them from reaching the valley where the ram resided. The hunt ended without a ram.

With the bighorn sheep and mountain goat seasons winding down, Ben planned one more hunt. It would begin October 20<sup>th</sup>. While eating lunch on day four, a ram was spotted. This one was bigger than any they had seen on the trip. The ram was bedded about 1,300 yards away, but a series of steep ridges separated the hunting party from the sheep.

It took Ben 2 ½ hours to stalk to within shooting distance. With one shot the ram was down. Ben's ram was a full-curl, eight-year old. While the ram was shot at 1:30 in the afternoon, by the time they skinned and de-boned the ram and made it back out through the rugged terrain, it was 2:00 a.m. before they arrived

back at camp.

Ben decided to make a final try for his mountain goat. On October 29<sup>th</sup>, Ben and his wife left for Cody for a two-day hunt. On the first morning of the hunt, after not seeing any mountain goats, Ben saw a "snow patch that began to move" on the opposite canyon wall. It was a Billy, and a big Billy at that! The shot was a long one, but within Ben's range. With the pull of the trigger, Ben's Super Tag Trifecta was complete. The Billy was as big as they thought, green scoring 50 3/8ths Boone and Crockett, potentially enough to make the all-time record book. Reflecting upon the season Ben says: "My Super Tag experience was incredible. It was one of the biggest adventures of my life. I saw areas of Wyoming that I had never seen before and probably never see will again. It is an experience that few will have, but those that do will always cherish. I am not sure I will ever have a hunting season that compares."

### Why the Wyoming Super Tag Trifecta is the Ultimate Western Hunting Adventure

The Trifecta winner:

- Can select three licenses from the following nine species - bighorn sheep, mountain goat, Shiras moose, elk, wild bison, deer, antelope, mountain lion, and black bear.
- Is able to hunt any open area for the species selected except for moose (areas with 10 or fewer licenses are restricted) and bighorn sheep (areas with eight or fewer licenses are restricted).
- Retains all preference points they have accumulated for Wyoming.
- Does not have to abide by mandatory waiting periods. They will be eligible to apply for the draw the next year (for example, the five-year waiting period for moose and bighorn sheep will be waived).
- Is exempt from the once-in-a-lifetime requirement for wild bison and mountain goat licenses.

Tickets are \$30 each and are available to both residents and nonresidents. The deadline to purchase tickets is July 1, 2016. Tickets must be purchased on line at the Wyoming Game and Fish Department's website:

<https://wgfd.wyo.gov/Hunting/Super-Tag>



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# Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation

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