



LM Scott Mooney  
HA-19  
Page 13

Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation

# The **RAMPAGE**

Spring 2019



"California represents a rich history and an established legacy that I will never forget or take for granted. Wyoming represents a bright and promising future for Weatherby. While walking the streets of downtown Sheridan with the Bighorn Mountains on the horizon, I feel like we were meant to be here. When you see the words 'Sheridan, WY' stamped on the side of a Mark V action, it just looks right. Some things are meant to be together."

*Adam Weatherby*

-Adam Weatherby  
President & CEO

Spring 2019

## Board of Directors:

Kurt Eisenach-President  
Zachary McDermott-VP  
Joni Miller-Treasurer  
Scott Butler-Secretary  
Warren Youmans  
Pat Pace  
James Owens  
Ryan Amundson  
Jerry Galles  
Greg Pope  
Mick Mickelsen  
James Rinehart  
John W. Harris  
Steve Kilpatrick-Executive  
Director

## Contact us at:

[info@wyomingwildsheep.org](mailto:info@wyomingwildsheep.org)  
Or by phone: (307)213-0998

## Wyoming WSF Board & Membership Meetings

Wyoming WSF holds its winter board membership meeting on the first Saturday of December and summer convention/ board/membership meeting the first Saturday in June. Details and locations are listed in the Calendar of Events, and on line at: [www.wyomingwildsheep.org](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)  
[www.wyomingwildsheep.org](http://www.wyomingwildsheep.org)

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*Scott draws the coveted Area 19 tag and makes it pay off.*

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*Larry finds out that there is no easy country in goat country*

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*GayLynn achieves her FNAWS*

## Address Changes

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

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

## Advertising Rates

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

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

# 2019-2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 17-18, 2019  
WSF Chapter & Affiliates Summit  
Las Vegas, NV

May 31-June 1, 2019  
Annual Convention  
Casper, WY

June 20-21, 2019  
Wyoming Big Horn Sheep Summit  
Burgess Junction, WY

Dec 6-7, 2019  
Winter Meeting  
TBD

February 7-9, 2020  
WSF Banquet/Convention  
Reno, NV



Wyoming WSF would like to thank, and recognize, Life Members who have signed up since the Fall 2018 RamPage was published. A complete listing of WY-WSF Life Members is available for viewing on the WY-WSF web page, under the "Life Members" tab:

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

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

- 553 Carl Asbell
- 554 Sara Domek
- 555 Jeff Kline
- 556 Charles Tanner
- 557 Jimmy Owens
- 558 Jeff Olson
- 559 Loren Nielsen
- 560 Larry Kuepferle
- 561 Howard Tilton
- 562 Frank Grimes

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

*Blast from the Past - Joni Miller with her sister, Patty at Granite Lake in 1968. "Sisters Having Fun"*



**THE CONTEST IS OPEN TO EVERYONE.  
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AT THE WYOMING WILD SHEEP CONVENTION IN CASPER, WY.  
YOU NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN**

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**TO ORDER TICKETS ONLINE, [WWW.WYOMINGWILD SHEEP.ORG](http://WWW.WYOMINGWILD SHEEP.ORG). MUST BE 21 TO PARTICIPATE AND PASS FEL BACKGROUND CHECK. SHIPPING IS WINNER'S RESPONSIBILITY. WINNERS MUST BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE THESE ITEMS AT THEIR LOCATION.**

**EMAIL: [INFO@WYOMINGWILD SHEEP.ORG](mailto:INFO@WYOMINGWILD SHEEP.ORG), PHONE: (307) 213-0998, MAIL: WY-WSE, P.O.BOX 666, CODY, WY. 82414**

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

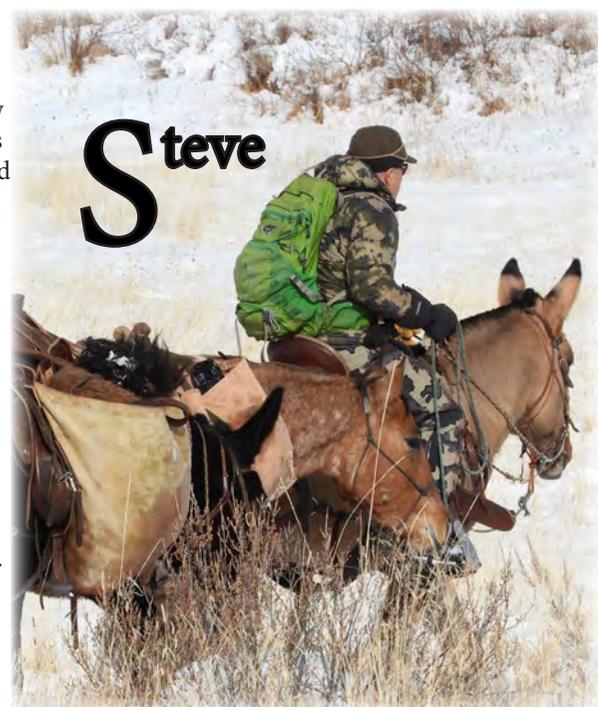
## BY STEVE KILPATRICK

### You tee it up, and I'll hit a home run!

As adults we often miss the mark when it comes to importance of involving our youth when it comes to keeping “kid”s on the mountain. And, without kids on the mountain we certainly will not have sheep on the mountain in the future. I know as I look back on all the backpack, horseback, hunting and camping trips, I could have made a better effort in inviting and including youth. I was quick to invite similar aged cronies that I knew thought, acted and otherwise enjoyed the outings I was passionate about. Now I attend wildlife related fund raisers, and who's there? Well, it's mostly that bunch of older males telling their hunting stories to each other. We are leaving the next generations home to fiddle with their electronic gadgetry. I don't think that bodes well for the future of wildlife, or probably even humans. Sorry, but I think more about these things as the hair on my head shifts to growing out my ears and nose. Now the good news. Let me tell you the many ways WY-WSF is addressing this youth issue. First off, the Board of Directors adopted our motto of “putting and keeping KIDS and wild SHEEP on the mountain”. Of all the 23 Chapters and Affiliates, and even the national Wild Sheep Foundation, WY-WSF is the ONLY one with “KIDS” in their motto. Ya gotta pat those Board members on the back for having a vision – without kids as an equal priority to wild sheep there wouldn't be a future for the mountain. The Board of Directors also knew that words needed to be followed by actions. Leaders “do things” not just talk about them. Thus, we reinforced our partnership with the National Bighorn Sheep Interpretive Center (Sheep Center for short) at Dubois. WY-WSF began funding additional staff, video updates, travel expenses etc. The results. In 2018, the Sheep Center engaged over 9,000 students, welcomed 6,550 visitors, hosted 33 special events, supported 1,500 volunteer

hours. Because of the demand and needs, they will be building a classroom expansion to the Center in 2020. Sara Domek, Karen Sullivan and the Sheep Center volunteers have traveled to Reno for the Sheep Show the last 3 years to engage over 1,000 youth/yr in just a couple of days. All done in the name of wildlife conservation, emphasis on wild sheep. How's that for investment results! Not enough, well there's more. A couple of years ago the Butler Family Foundation made a \$25,000 donation to the Sheep Center with the interest to be used for activities associated with education and outreach. Furthermore, the agreement would be a 3-way signed partnership between the Sheep Center, WY-WSF and the national Wild Sheep Foundation. That idea took several whiskey-and-waters at the Butler house! Well it happened, Gray Thornton, the Director of the National Wild Sheep Foundation, made a special trip to Dubois to learn about our vision. He visited the Center and the Conservation Camp up Torrey Valley where Sara and her crew are planning a “Sheep Camp” for youth from around the nation. Gray fell in love with the idea and he signed the agreement. Now the horse is out of the barn – the race is on! Sara was invited to the big Sheep Show in Reno last February, where she gives two presentations to the national Board of Directors and all of the Chapters and Affiliates. I have since given presentations to the Eastern Chapter WSF and Iowa FNAWS. Least I say, there is keen interest in sponsoring youth by most of the Chapters and Affiliates from across the nation. Yes, Dubois, Wyoming is on the map and will become known as the “National” Bighorn Sheep Interpretive Center. There are many other education/ outreach activities too numerous to mention which have resulted from our partnership with the Sheep Center.

The Butler Family Foundation, through the WY-WSF Conservation Fund, not only fostered the agreement with the Sheep Center. Their agreement with WY-WSF, has resulted in youth engagement during our annual fund raiser/banquet. Again, Sara and her staff, along with the Butler family, provide a full ½ day session with kid's activities prior to the annual banquet. In addition, we invite all youth up front during the banquet where the Conservation Fund provides two youth Life Memberships. Cow elk hunts and other prizes are also awarded. This year Sitka will be giving each youth a clothing item. In addition, we will be recognizing two teachers for “putting and keep KIDS” on the mountain this year. I am glad to hear the very positive feedback from our attendees – you wild sheep enthusiasts recognize a priority when you see it! In short, the WY-WSF Board of Directors teed up the ball, stood back and said let's see what you can do with it. Well, dare I say, the Sheep Center, Butler Conservation Fund, national WSF and a host of volunteers have hit a home run. And, they are sitting back saying, “Dare you to tee it up again!”. .



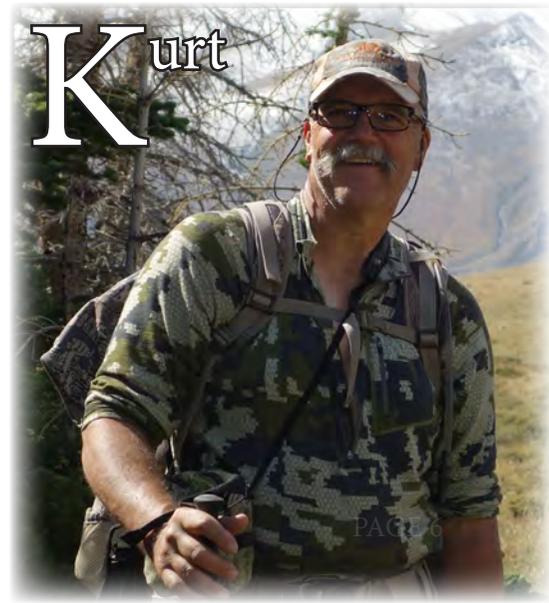
# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## BY KURT EISENACH

The snow has arrived, and we are in the midst of a normal Wyoming winter. The visions of summer high country trips have faded back into our memories. But hope springs eternal as the big game application process in many states is cranking up. Good luck to all of you in the upcoming drawing process. We all share the anticipation of what is ahead for 2019. While some of us run off to the sunny south, your board has been getting ready for the summer banquet June 1<sup>st</sup>. We are again headed to the Ramkota in Casper and it promises to be another sellout. We are planning another great event with a special welcome this year to Weatherby Firearms now of Sheridan WY! They have jumped in and joined our efforts to raise funds to put and keep Kids and Wild Sheep on the mountains. As a special treat they are providing one of their gold edition WY special edition MK V rifles for us to auction. This is a very special weapon commemorating their move to WY. Thanks to Adam and Brenda Weatherby and all the wonderful folks at Weatherby for making this happen. Tell your gun loving friends to check it out on line at Weatherby's website. They will want to be a part of the bidding at the banquet June 1 or on line at [onlinehuntingauctions.com](http://onlinehuntingauctions.com) The WY WSF booth at the Reno Sheep show was a huge success. We picked up several new members including a life member and tallied over \$6000 in sales. Thanks to those who worked the booth and those who stopped by to say hello. While in Reno, Steve Kilpatrick and I were able to attend a Chapter & Affiliate meeting. Sara Domek from the Dubois sheep center gave a presentation about the Dubois conservation camp and opportunities for kids to the attendees. The response from the WSF family to this opportunity for kids was huge. National WSF is partnering with The Sheep Center and chapters are lining up to sponsor kids to the camp. This is a great start to the Sheep family's involvement in the Wy Conservation Camp. Look for more from this partnership in the future.

While on the subject of kids, we are going to work hard to raise funds along with several other sponsors to send a young man on a sheep hunt. A few months ago, a member from Sheridan approached us with the idea of helping a young man named Zane Foust. This young man has a terminal illness, an issue that none of us would want to face. He is an avid outdoors man and dreams of a sheep hunt. Several companies have joined to help the cause, but there remains some work to be done. We will fill in the details in June along with reaching out to you for support of this effort. If you wish to help with this now, contact our vice president Zach McDermott for details. I would like now to ask you to welcome our newest board member Pat Pace from Cheyenne. He stepped up at the winter meeting to fill out our board. His efforts in the past as a volunteer at the June banquets are greatly appreciated. Ask one of the board members to introduce you or just be bold, welcome him and thank him for the commitment. Sadly, that brings us to the departure of two board members at this year's event. First Warren Youmans, who has been a great board member, has decided to step away and free up more time for his family and new job at WYLD company. Warren has been very active in multiple conservation groups for a long time and the time off is well deserved. Along with Warren our recent past president Jerry Galles has decided to slow down, if just a little, and step down from the board. His accomplishments and commitment to wildlife conservation are second to none. He will always be a part of this organization and a valued resource for myself and the board. We can't hope to equal his accomplishments for wildlife, only use them as a target to shoot for. So now we have two new openings to fill and I am officially twisting some arms and asking all the membership to consider if it is time for you to

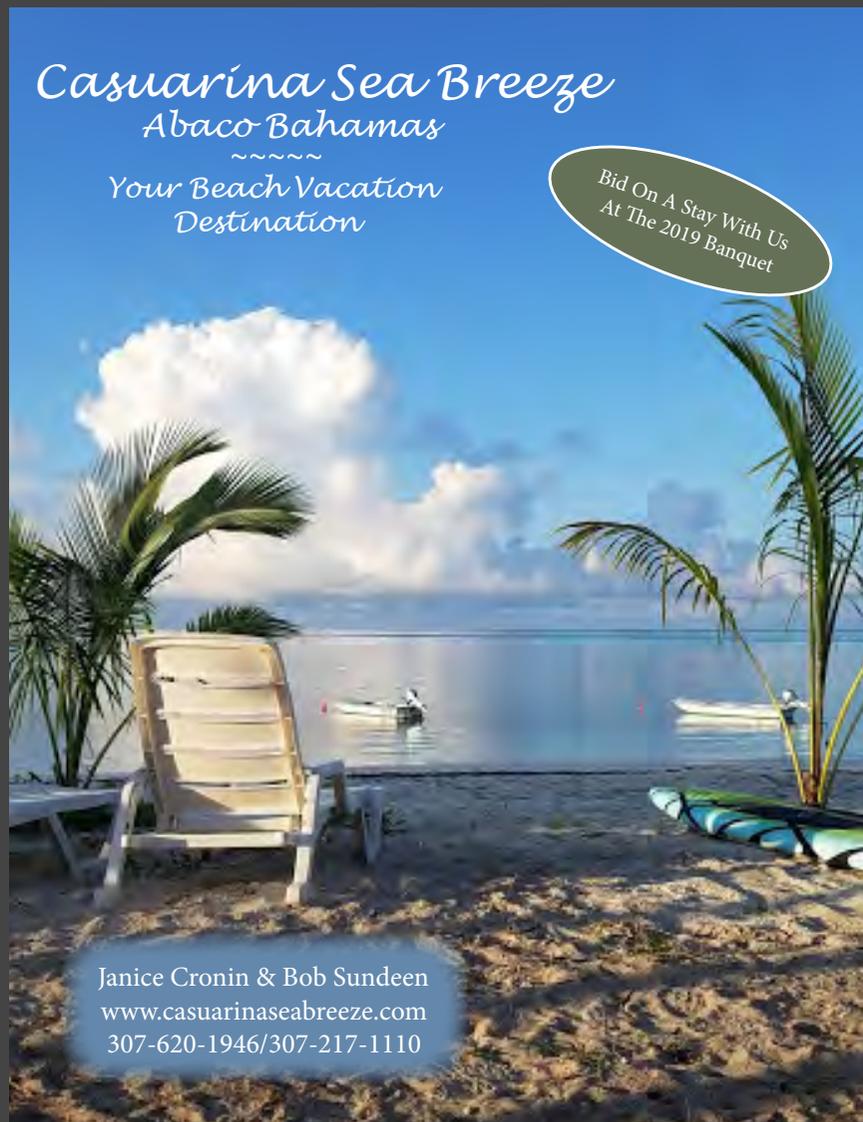
step up and take a seat at the table. We are looking for two crazy people who can commit their valuable time and knowledge to help run this organization. Four years ago, I was the new guy on the block and was unsure if I would fit in. Guess I did or maybe I'm just a glutton for hard work. We work hard, make new friends and get the privilege of trying to make a difference for the wild sheep we love. They say someone goes on a sheep hunt, never goes again or is hooked and can't get enough. If stepping up to a board position is not possible for you, consider volunteering to help set up and run the banquet. Or follow the great lead of the Lander gang and pull all your sheep buddies together to underwrite a part of the banquet. Every year that group raises the funds and runs the two square board raffles at the June event. Now there's a challenge to another group of sheep nuts, are you up to it? Our Treasure Joni Miller and Dean DiJenno have worked countless hours to make the checkout process at the end of the banquet quick and easy. Please look for the explanations of the changes in the banquet literature you will see in June. Then relax at the end of the night's festivities, have a drink with friends and be assured there is no reason to rush up and get in line. Remember sign up early, get a group together and buy a Full Curl table for 8. The seating will be reserved for your party, and the extras are worth the price. See you in June!



## 2018 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 2, 2018 banquet in Casper.

We thank them for their support, and invite others who might be interested in a full curl table for our 2019 fundraising banquet to please contact President Kurt Eisenach, Executive Director Steve Kilpatrick, or any WY-WSF board member. We appreciate your outstanding support, and look forward to another great banquet/fund raiser in 2019!



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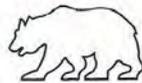
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# Conservation Fund Update

BY SCOTT BUTLER

“Keep It Simple”

Life can get complicated. It is though, what you make it. It can be rewarding to get involved and help the cause. If anyone is interested in making a monthly contribution (\$25-50 or whatever you may choose) to the Conservation Fund, the WY-WSF can set up, as needed, a donation to be automatically withdrawn to help the cause and at the same time ‘Keep it Simple’. It may be a path for some to be able to contribute and not have to deal with much paperwork or billing. We are close to our initial goal of \$250K and would like you to be part of it. We would also like to thank all that have contributed thus far. It is something for all to be proud of!! Here is to the future!!



Guiliana McDermott became a Life Member at our 2018 Convention thanks to the Conservation Fund Youth Give Away

Conservation Fund Total = \$210,663

Interest to date = \$20,803

GIAs funded = \$13,500

Life Memberships Awarded = 4

**KEEPING KIDS AND WILD SHEEP  
ON THE MOUNTAIN!**

# Life Member Breakfast-7:15 on June 1, 2019

This will be the eighteenth year we have met on the first Saturday of June for comradery and breakfast. Life Member breakfast is one of the uplifting ideas that has brought about the remarkable success of the Chapter. This value would be justified even if it was just visiting at breakfast, raising a few dollars for bighorns, and the fun. However, because of breakfast many of us arrive on Friday evening for a long evening of fun with friends. A side benefit is also having our Saturday business meeting attended by members who care and are very knowledgeable in our affairs. And then we all get to learn more at the seminars.

The Life Member Breakfast is furnished at no cost to attendees because of the continued generosity from so many of you. The life breakfast committee asks that you once again help us and for those who have not given in the past please consider helping carry part of the load. To help sponsor visit our web page at: [www.wyomingwildsheep.org/store](http://www.wyomingwildsheep.org/store) to find a LMB donation link or call Dean DiJenno at (307)213-0998. A list of last year's donors is on the reverse of this letter, thank them when you see them at this year's breakfast.

The festivities are once again starting with a great "All American Buffet" breakfast, life member giveaways, live auction, silent auction, door prizes, and a special update on our grant in aid project progress by Executive Director, Steve Kilpatrick.

Mark your calendars for 7:15 AM on June 1 at the [Ramkota, Casper.](#) **Help Sponsor US** if you can, but by all means attend the 18<sup>th</sup> annual life member breakfast and stay for the evening banquet.

You will be in the running to win a \$5000 banquet credit which will be awarded at the Life Member Breakfast this year and can be spent on anything or everything you like during the convention on Saturday, June 1, 2019. The prize is not redeemable for cash.

Thank you all for supporting the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation  
You're Life Member Breakfast Committee

**THANK YOU!  
YOUR SUPPORT MAKES OUR  
SUCCESS POSSIBLE**

## LIFE MEMBER BREAKFAST DONORS

Jenny Benton  
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Patrick Mooney  
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Michael Murray  
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Sam Lockwood  
Meade Dominick  
Steve Kilpatrick  
Paul Dona

## \$5000 Banquet Credit

On June 1, 2019, one lucky life member of Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation will win a \$5000 credit to be spent during the annual banquet. All life members of WY-WSF in attendance at our 2019 Life Member Breakfast will be entered into this drawing for a \$5000 banquet credit which can be used for any items available during the banquet including; live and silent auction items, games, raffles, life memberships and conservation fund donations.

### Rules

- The winning life member **MUST** be registered for the banquet and present at the 2019 WY-WSF Life Member Breakfast on June 1, 2019 in Casper, WY.
- Every WY-WSF Life member registered and present at the breakfast will have their name entered once into this drawing at no additional cost.
- All new WY-WSF Life memberships must be paid in full before their name will be entered into this drawing.
- **The drawing will be held at the conclusion of the the Life Member Breakfast.**
- The winner will only be able to transfer the entire credit to another life member that is paid up, present, and registered at the 2019 banquet. The banquet credit may be donated to the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation to further chapter fund raising efforts.
- The winner of the banquet credit cannot sell, trade, or exchange this banquet credit for profit or cash.
- The WY-WSF board reserves the right to transfer the banquet credit to alternate Life members drawn the night of the banquet, if the first winner attempts to sell or trade this banquet credit.
- Any board member, volunteer, director, or officer who is also a life member, of Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation that is present and registered at the life member breakfast is eligible to win this banquet credit.
- **The value of this banquet credit may not be redeemed for cash.**
- One WY-WSF Life membership will be auctioned at the Saturday, June 1, 2019 Life member breakfast. This life membership must be paid in full prior to the drawing for this banquet credit and will be eligible to win the banquet credit.

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) 213-0098

# Persistence Pays Off

## By LM Scott Mooney

May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018

was a busy day at work. I was in the middle of making sure the handcuffs were double locked on the new arrestee when my phone rang. Before I could get a hello out, my wife's calm voice asked, "Have you checked Game and Fish yet?" "Not yet honey, I'm kind of in the middle of something."

especially one point out and this being the first time I've applied instead of buying a point. Immediately I dialed my dad. He answered with, "You better start hiking!"

The summer flew by. Daily I peeked back into my safe, just making sure my tag was still resting on the shelf. Sarah, my wife, was almost as excited as I was. She helped me with a list

19. This would be the first time any member of my family hunted the Laramie Peak Range.

September 1<sup>st</sup> was approaching fast. My brother and I, with help from a hunting friend, starting scouting in mid-August. It only took an hour to find the sheep. And boy did we find some sheep. Sleep was hard to come by after spotting some record book rams.

Area 19 is a beautiful place



"Well, you better."

Getting back to my desk I had to retype the Game and Fish's address several times my fingers shaking with excitement. There it was, I couldn't believe what I was reading. "Resident Bighorn Sheep. Successful. Area 19."

I wasn't expecting to draw,

of things I needed but eventually grew tired of my constant pacing, my constant packing and unpacking of my hunting gear.

My father, brother and I attended the annual Wyoming Wild Sheep banquet with hopes of talking with fellow hunters for more information on area

even with the Britannia Mountain fire belching flame and black smoke a couple miles from camp. Thank goodness the smoke and fire didn't bother the wildlife that much.

Towards the end of the first day of the season we came up on a group of 10 rams. First shot of the season, 57 yards, scope turned down to 4



power....miss. I couldn't believe what I was seeing. The rams took off full speed down the rocks, no chance at a second shot. I felt sick to my stomach, I couldn't sleep at all that night. Rolling around in my sleeping bag I replayed the scenario over and over in my head. At home I could ring the steel plates at 400+ yards. Apparently, I should have had steel at 50.

The next 21 days were filled with smoke, fire, 90 degree days and one weekend full of snow and wind. And the worse thing of all, no sheep, apart from some HUGE rams on private land. Day 22 came, my brother and I started hiking. Mid-day we spotted 6 rams across the canyon. Another hour went by hiking up to a pile of rocks we knew those rams would be hiding behind. Three in the afternoon,

we peeked up over the rocks only to find grass and down timber. The rams decided to move on to greener grass. Contemplating the rest of the day and the long drive back home we hung our packs on our sore backs and started walking.

Not more than 10 feet down the rocks, "Patrick, stop." I whispered. Dropping to the ground we spotted a shadow moving. Slowly, a lone ram walked the same trail we were on. My brother ranged him, "600 yards.....550.....500". Resting on my pack, prone on the uneven ground I waited, hearing my brother beside me whispering the range every 50 yards. "312 yards, shoot!" "He's still moving, shoot him again." Needless to say the ram dropped. It took 5 rounds

from my Cooper 6.5x284 to make him stop twitching. It finally hit me, 40 years old, 22 years of waiting, 81 miles hiked, 1289 flights of stairs in elevation and 24 days hunting and I finally had my Bighorn. And man did I get my trophy. Scored 173 Boone and Crocket, 2 points from the book! A huge thanks to everyone that helped me fulfill this dream. My brother willing to go every day he had off from work, my dad for doing most of the research on the area and delivering some amazing rib eyes to camp one night. Thank you Greg and Luke for introducing us to area 19 and helping navigate through all the rocks. And a special thanks to my wife for all the encouragement and support through two months of absence.



MARK V

WYOMING COMMEMORATIVE GOLD EDITION



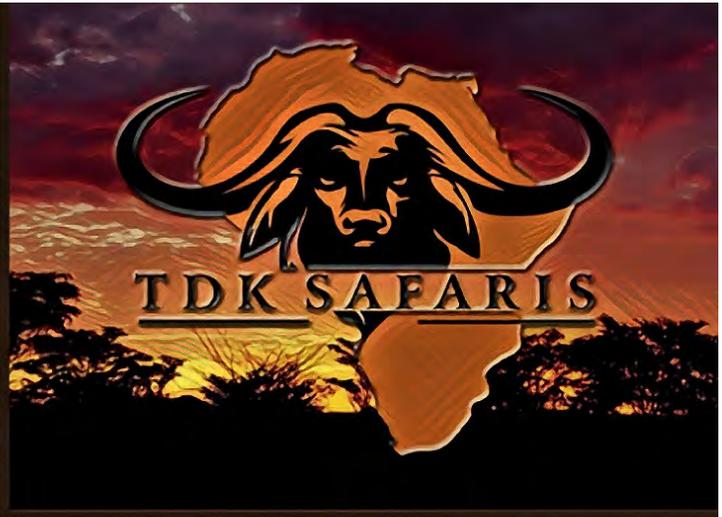
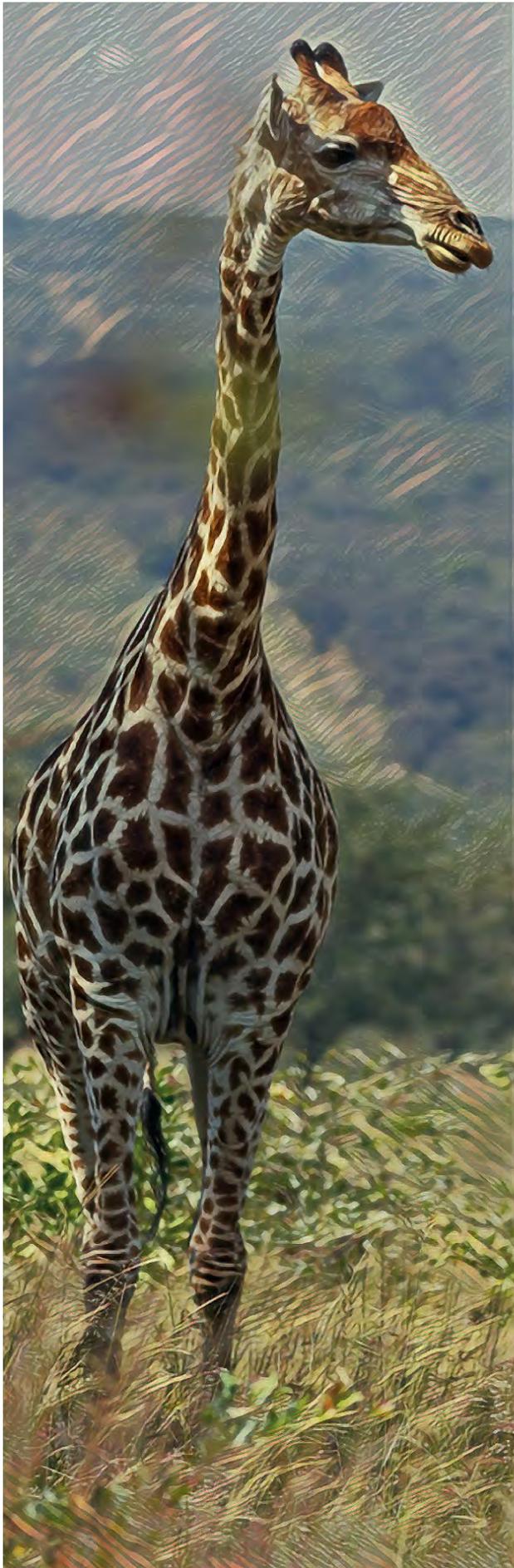
DESCRIPTION

After announcing our move to Wyoming, we immediately started receiving requests for the first Mark V's staimped "Sheridan, WY". The demand for these new rifles served as the catalyst for the development of our Wyoming Commemoraitive. We saw this historic move to the Cowboy State as an opportunity to make a limited rifle set that would showcase the Weatherby quality and craftsmanship while boasting our new location at the foot of the Bighorn Mountains in beautiful Sheridan, Wyoming. Less than 1,000 Commemorative rifles will be available; our premium Gold Series starting with Serial Number WY000001. I truly believe these rifles will be a collector's piece that will be admired for generations to come.

| FEATURES                                           | STOCK & BARREL                                    | SPECS                               |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Gold Lace Wyoming Bucking Horse &amp; Rider</i> | <i>Exhibition Grade Fancy French Walnut Stock</i> | <i>9-Lug magnum weighs 8 pounds</i> |
| <i>Gold Engraved Scroll Work</i>                   | <i>Oil Rubbed Finish</i>                          | <i>.300 Weatherby</i>               |
| <i>Damascened Bolt</i>                             | <i>Custom Fine Line Checkering</i>                |                                     |
| <i>Damascened Aluminum Alloy Follower</i>          | <i>Exotic Wood Forend</i>                         |                                     |
| <i>Hand Checkered Bolt Knob</i>                    | <i>Gold &amp; Silver Accent Barrel Rings</i>      |                                     |
| <i>Pachmayr® Decelerator Recoil Pad</i>            | <i>26 inch / #2 Contour</i>                       |                                     |
| <i>Fully Wrapped Leather Logo Case</i>             |                                                   |                                     |



| PRODUCT CODE | UPC          | CALIBER         | MSRP     | Weight | Overall Length | Mag Capacity | Barrel Length & Contour | Action / Barrel OAL | Twist Rate | Length of Pull | Drop @ Comb | Monte Carlo | Drop @ Heel |
|--------------|--------------|-----------------|----------|--------|----------------|--------------|-------------------------|---------------------|------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| MKVWYGOLD    | 747115438358 | .300 WB.Y. MAG. | \$10,000 | 8 LBS. | 46 1/2"        | 3+1          | 26" #2                  | RH 26"              | 1-10"      | 13 1/2"        | 7/8"        | 3/8"        | 1 1/4"      |



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# 2019 Live Auction Items

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

[Online Hunting Auctions](#)

5th and Final 2019 Wyo Governor's BH Sheep License  
2019 Commissioner's License for Elk/Deer/Pronghorn  
Weatherby Mark V Wyoming Commorative Edition Rifle  
7 Night Stay for 8 at Causarina Sea Breeze in the Bahamas  
5 Day South Africa Safari for Two With 4 Animals Included  
2020 Spring Brown Bear Hunt in Alaska, Includes Bonus Black Bear.  
3 Day 2019 Waterfowl Hunt in Alberta for 6  
Area 58 Cow Elk Hunt for 1, Guided by Meade Dominick  
Kings Camo XKG Clothing Package  
Weatherby's Bullets, Booze, and a Big Bang Package  
WYO 75th Anniversary Colt Peace Maker .22LR #506  
Hartman Taxidermy- Sheep Shoulder Mount  
Kenetrek Package  
WY-WSF Life Membership  
"High Ground" by Kelley Coburn #1 of 25  
2020 3 Day Spring Turkey Hunt in Sheridan for Two Hunters  
10 Day Mountain Goat Hunt in 2020 for 1 with Wicked River  
Outfitters in British Columbia, Canada  
Replica of the Current World Record Bighorn Ram 216 3/8!  
Cabo San Lucas-4 nites in private condo for 6 with fishing!  
Banquet Rifle-Cooper Backcountry 7MM Rem  
Dewey Wildlife Studio Taxidermy Certificate  
Sitka Deluxe Packages for Men and Women  
WYO Backcountry Decor WYO 191+ Ram Replica Lamp  
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# LA-

## A 5 Day Safari for Two in South Africa with TDK Safaris. Includes 4 Animals!

Donated by Lisa McArtor/TDK Safaris  
Ph: (307) 213-1007

Web: <https://tdksafaris.com/>

Reference: Dean DiJenno (307)213-0998

This is a 5-day hunting safari, for 2 hunters and includes: 1 Impala, 1 Blesbok, 1 Warthog and 1 Wildebeest



5 hunting days plus arrival/departure days (7 days total)

Accommodations and all meals and beverages

Experienced, licensed professional hunter and 4x4 vehicle

Supporting staff: skinners, trackers and lodge staff

Field preparation of trophies, skinning, salting of hides/horns

Hunting Licenses and permits for all plains game

Preauthorization of import permits for firearms

### The donation excludes:

International and domestic air travel.

Arrival and Departure days

All taxidermy work undertaken, documentation, dipping, packing and shipping of your trophies.

Rifle hire.

Gratuities for PH's and lodge staff (tips).

Hotel accommodations before or after hunt.

Permits for primates/cats/predators which needs to be applied for and paid in full before the hunt commences, as well as all CITES permits.

Meet/Greet at airplane jet way for assistance through customs and firearm importation procedures, estimated at about \$200.00

Daily excursions outside of TDK hunting area.



# LA-

## 2020 10 day Spring Brown Bear Hunt With Bonus Black Bear in Alaska

2020 brown bear hunt with bonus black bear. With Extreme Adventures, LLC. 10 days hunting. Client responsible for AK hunting license \$160, Brown bear seal \$1000, travel to start of hunt {Kenai, AK} lodging and meals while not in field, shipment and care of trophy's after the hunt. Outfitter will supply food and lodging during the hunt, black bear seal {\$450}, bush plane flights during hunt. Outfitter not responsible for weather delays in and out of hunt area. This is a very physical hunt to be taken on snow shoes.

Contact: Richard Moran at 907-301-3832





# LA

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

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### Donated by Wicked River Outfitters

Mountain goats are truly a magnificent animal and an incredibly challenging species to hunt. Mountain Goat hunting is a very physically demanding hunt, for many hunters it is the toughest hunt they have ever done. Our goal is to get you a great billy and as long as you are in reasonable shape and have a good mental outlook, our guides can get you in position on a trophy animal. We can get to these “kings of the mountain” by backpacking from spike camps. Often we are able to limit the amount of hiking by using horses. Using the horses allows you to travel deep into the back country, not to mention that it really saves your body until your goat is spotted and it’s time to climb. The horses also allow you to cover a lot of ground during your hunt and eliminate long approaches to the mountain. We strongly advise our clients to be in excellent physical condition prior to undertaking this adventure.

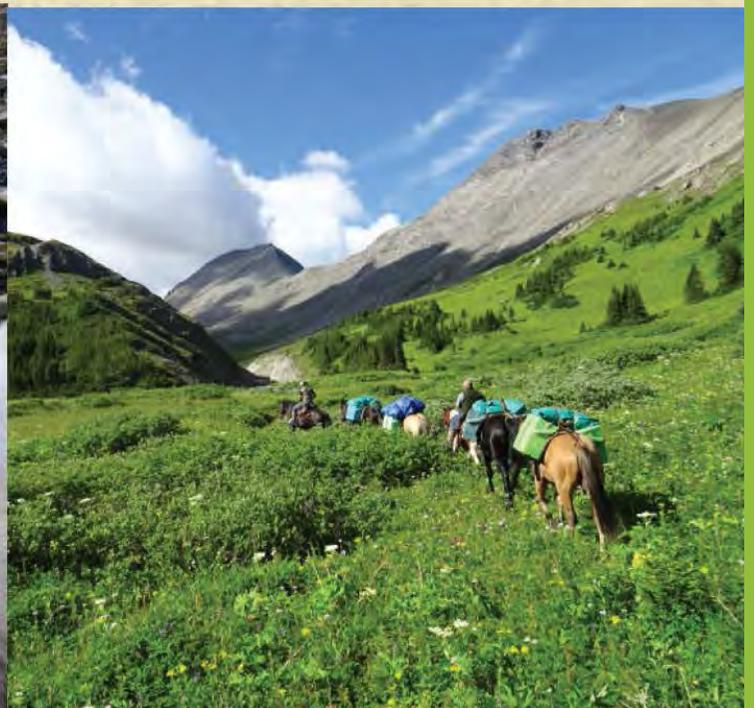
The season for this species is August 15 to October 15. The average horn size is 8-10 inches.

The above hunt prices are all-inclusive pricing with the exception of; License cost of \$350, Wildlife Preservation Fund fee of \$250, Government Royalties are \$250 and 5% of the cost of the hunt and an approximate \$3500.00 charter fee. If a hunter chooses to harvest an extra animal there will be a trophy fee, plus \$350 license fee.

Wicked River Outfitters-Booker & Amber

P.O.Box 569, Hudsons Hope, BC V0C1V0, Canada    Hunt Must Be Taken in 2020

250-321-1364 or [booker@wickedriver.com](mailto:booker@wickedriver.com)





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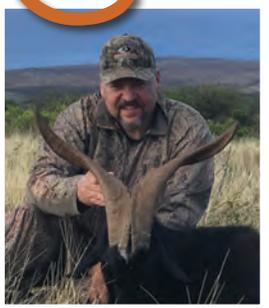


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# LA

## 3 Day Spring Turkey Hunt for 2 in 2020 in Sheridan, WY

-----  
Donated by The Little Goose Ranch in Sheridan, WY  
3 day 2020 spring turkey hunt for 2 hunters.

Accommodations, meals and license responsibility of  
hunters.

Contact Ranch to arrange hunt dates.

Season dates 4-1 thru 5-20

Tag fee Res. \$16, Non Res. \$74.

Area is turkey area 3, tags available over the counter.

Contact: Ed Meredith, Phone: 307-751-2472





# LA-

## 3 Day Guided Waterfowl Hunt In Alberta for 6 Hunters in 2019

---

Alberta Fall Flight is offering a 3 day guided waterfowl hunt, for 6 hunters. hunters responsible for accommodations, food, guns, personal gear, shells,tips and bird care. May add up to 2 additional hunters, contact outfitter for cost. Morning and afternoon hunt each day,decoys, blinds, dogs, and skilled guide / caller provided. on pre-scouted fields. Dates for hunt arranged with outfitter. from Sept. until Dec 2019. Alberta waterfowl license's total about \$170 Canadian per hunter.Current limits are 8 ducks per day x 3 day possession = 24 some species sub limits, Canada & white fronted geese 8 per day x 3 day =24 of which only 5 per day may be white fronted geese. snow geese 50 per day, no possession limit. Easy to import firearm into Canada, \$25 fee. valid passport. Phone: 403-805-3274

Web: <http://www.albertasfallflight.com/about-us.html>





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2019 Annual Convention/Banquet  
June 1, 2019 in Casper, WY

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Color or black and white, no larger than 11 X 14, put your name  
on the rear of the photo, no frames please. Sponsored by Freddie



Photo by Mark Gocke

# GRANT IN AID UPDATES

## 2019 SE WY Bighorn Sheep Capture Project By Ian Tator, WY G&F State Wide Habitat Manager

From January 20-22 WGFD with the help of Native Range Capture Services Inc., captured 34 female bighorn sheep and collared 30 of those ewes with GPS Satellite Radio Collars. A total of 8 ewes came from the Encampment River Herd Unit, 10 from the Douglas Creek Herd Unit and 16 from the Laramie Peak Herd Unit. This was part of the state-wide disease surveillance project looking at pneumonia pathogens in all of Wyoming's bighorn sheep herd units. Six locations per day will be collected for approximately 3 years to help identify lambing areas, seasonal movement patterns, and crucial winter range. This project could not have been possible without the help of WY Wild Sheep Foundation and the Governor's Big Game License Coalition. Their funding and support was instrumental in pulling this project off.



WGFD employees and Mick Mickelsen (WY WSF Board Member) work up a bighorn ewe. Photos by Chris Martin (WY G&F).



# GRANT IN AID UPDATES

## Devil's Canyon Herd Update By Leslie Schreiber, WY G&F

Over the last 5 years, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and the Wyoming Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation have worked together to transplant nearly 120 bighorn sheep from the Devil's Canyon herd (Hunt Area 12) to the Ferris-Seminole herd (Hunt Areas 17 & 26). This transplant effort has largely been a success. The bighorn sheep population in the Ferris-Seminole Mountains is thriving while the Devil's Canyon herd is no longer over-objective. During the most recent transplant effort last winter 20 sheep were captured in December 2017 and another 23 sheep in February 2018. During the Devil's Canyon summer survey flight in July 2018, we counted a total of 144 sheep, giving us a 3-year average of 195 sheep which puts that herd at objective, right where we want it to be. Also, during the summer flight we physically saw 8 full-curl rams, with many smaller rams ready to grow up. Since hunting seasons opened in Hunt Area 12 in 2008, hunters have

been 100% successful, other than medical deferments. During the Fall 2017 hunting season, the new state record ram taken by archery equipment was harvested in Hunt Area 12, scoring 186 net B&C. Currently, 6 licenses are offered in Hunt Area 12. Because transplants had the desired effect on the Devil's Canyon herd of reducing the number of sheep, we are not planning a transplant during the winter of 2018-2019. Wyoming Game and Fish captured and sampled a dozen sheep in early February, 2019 as part of standard disease monitoring procedure. Sheep were tested for bacterial, parasitic, and viral infections. This preemptive measure is mandatory, in the event that the department moves to transplant Devils Canyon Sheep in the 2019/20 winter, the herd would have been tested within the 18 months prior to translocation. Results from the disease sampling effort are yet to be determined.

I have taken

a different job within WGFD as the statewide sage-grouse biologist. It was a privilege to help manage the Devil's Canyon sheep herd during my time as the Greybull biologist. On January 1, 2019, Sam Stephens took over management of the Devil's Canyon herd as the new Greybull biologist. I am working closely with Sam to bring him up to speed on the Devil's Canyon herd, and I am heartened by WY-WSF's continued involvement with this exceptional herd.



# GRANT IN AID UPDATES

## The Significance of Wildlife Cameras Traps for Wildlife Management By Mike Murray, BLM

Advancements in technology have aided wildlife management for years, but no more one technology other than telemetry data has been more useful than wildlife camera traps. While camera traps often referred to as “wildlife cameras” or “trail cameras” are available to the sporting community, wildlife managers have found these tools to be extremely useful for documenting wildlife use as it relates to land management activities (i.e. fence conversions, wildlife guzzlers and vegetation manipulation).

Wildlife camera traps help managers document an abundance of data and often help support management changes and alteration in range improvement design features. These cameras are not only utilized to document animal species, date, season and time at a location (i.e. wildlife guzzlers or migration routes), but they can also provide a level of security or functionality monitoring to specific infrastructure. Camera traps capable of providing real-time data help managers ensure that wildlife improvements, such as water developments, are functioning daily and are in proper working order. Camera traps also help managers document weather events, vegetative phenology and recreational activities.



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Encampment River Canyon Sheep Capture January 2019  
By Jordan Seitz



"If this doesn't inspire a person to work with wildlife, then I don't know what would!" Those were my parting thoughts after spending several hours shoulder to shoulder with the Game and Fish experts as the sheep mugging crew flew in 8 ewes to be processed and fitted with GPS collars. I am quick to say it was an experience of a lifetime for those of us whose job doesn't revolve around managing our natural resources or wildlife.

Student Josie Little put this in perspective by saying, "This opportunity can help kids learn what it takes for us to care for our animals and earth." And,

"Being able to actually work on the animals with G&F was great: to see the process about how people keep a balance in the ecosystem." Chad Pickett, one of the parents that joined us, felt that "It was a good learning experience to see how they are captured, the care given to the sheep while captured, the data that was collected, and the urgency to release the sheep. Well worth the experience!"

Biologist Teal Cufaude headed up the capture and had been keeping me updated with possible times and dates it would occur so that I could get some of my students involved again (see our article in the Spring 2018 RamPage). On Saturday the text came through that it was going to happen the next day at noon, so I started to spread the word. When the time came, half my students were still able to attend despite the weekend, in addition to a bunch of parents and community members. A few adults had filled out G&F volunteer paperwork ahead of time and were as eager as the students to help out! Decker Sipe was another one of my students and felt that, "Going on the bighorn sheep field trip was awesome. I am really

glad I got to go because we actually got to touch a real bighorn sheep."

If the sheep could have had human thoughts... or even seen since they were masked...they would have thought they were celebrities flying in on a private chopper and having the red carpet, aka tarps, rolled out for them. Student Jaylin Bowns reflected on this and thought: "Watching the sheep get dropped off is amazing," in addition to when "... they get up and run."

To take a step back, and look beyond the epic fact that we were touching live bighorn sheep, it was an awesome teamwork experience. Game and Fish staff from different towns embraced the crowd which allowed students, parents, community members, and some visitors, to watch or work together with them to safely and efficiently sample, test, and collar some of Wyoming's most iconic wild animals. It was an amazing opportunity that most of us will be eternally grateful for, and potentially life altering for some others. Jaylin also said, "This opportunity was a really great chance for me to make sure that I wanted to be a vet."

Data is currently being logged from the collars, and we look forward to learning more about their movement habits!

Finally, Student Ashtyn Tieszen wanted to: "Thank the G&F for letting us come and be able to have this experience and let us participate in all the different jobs they have to do."





Ross German  
PHOTOGRAPHY

# GRANT IN AID UPDATES

## Elk Mountain Herd Update

The Kouba Canyon sheep herd resides primarily on Elk Mountain, a large mountain divided almost equally between Wyoming and South Dakota. Currently the population is estimated at around 200 sheep. This population has appeared to be in good health in recent years, exhibiting good reproduction and

Presently, the United States Forest Service (USFS) has four grazing permittees (ranchers) on Elk Mountain. Livestock water on Elk Mountain is very limited, with the majority of the water sources available to livestock are in the form of stock ponds, which depend upon ample precipitation to provide reliable water for livestock and

USFS designed a water system that would help distribute grazing and reduce utilization around the dependable water sources.

The USFS approached the South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks (SDGFP) and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) about partnering on the project due

to positive impacts that this water system would have for wildlife. SDGFP worked on securing grants from South Dakota conservation groups to help fund the pipeline. WGFD secured funds from conservation groups in Wyoming to purchase four guzzlers and materials to connect them to the waterline. Water will only be available in the livestock water tanks when livestock are in the allotments, so to provide a year round water source for wildlife, WGFD obtained grant money from the Water for Wildlife Foundation, WGBGLC, MDF, and WWSF to purchase guzzlers that could be added the pipeline. When the pipeline is in use, the guzzlers will be filled with water. Once the pipeline is shut off, the guzzlers will still be



recruitment based on observed and estimated lamb/ewe ratios.

Recently, a project aimed at improving watering sources for wildlife and livestock on Elk Mountain was completed.

wildlife. On dry years, rangeland adjacent to the more dependable but extremely limited springs was often heavily used by livestock. In efforts to improve rangeland health and distribute grazing on the USFS allotments on Elk Mountain, the

able to provide a water source due to their ability to catch rain water and protect water present in the guzzler from evaporation.

This water project will not only provide a reliable water source for

# GRANT IN AID UPDATES

By Todd Caltrider, WY G&F

wildlife, but may also help decrease the spread of Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease Virus (EDHV) and/or Blue Tongue Virus (BTV), which is thought to have noticeably impacted the Kouba Canyon sheep herd at times. EDHV and BTV are spread by a biting gnat that breeds in mud at the edges of standing water. Livestock watering ponds provide excellent habitat for these gnats, and when wildlife congregate around these stock ponds during hot and dry summers, the chances of becoming infected with EDHV and BTV increase. By providing a clean water source through livestock water tanks and guzzlers, hopefully, a reduction in transmission of these diseases can be achieved. In 2016, two guzzlers were installed and this past summer, another two guzzlers were installed by WGFD, SDGF&P, USFS, and volunteers. Trail cameras were put up near the newly installed guzzlers, and within short time wildlife on Elk Mountain found the guzzlers.



In addition, WGFD worked with the LAK ranch to reactivate an old windmill well with a solar pump located on bighorn sheep winter range. This reactivated well will provide a reliable water source for livestock in this pasture in the summer and through the addition of a culvert tank adjacent to the stock tank, a ice free water source for bighorn sheep wintering in the pasture.

This project could not have been completed without the cooperation of private landowners, grazing permittees, the SDGFP, and the USFS. In addition, the WGFD would like to thank the conservation groups that helped fund this project and the volunteers who spent a couple of days in the hot sun installing the guzzlers.



# GRANT IN AID UPDATES

## News from the National Bighorn Sheep Center

By Sara Domek

**Climb Like a Bighorn at 5150'**  
**Where: Rock Gym, Casper, WY**  
**When: Saturday, June 1,**  
**2019 from 1pm-4pm**

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

Additionally, the National Bighorn Sheep Center and Wild Sheep Foundation will be hosting youth laser shot, archery and hands-on learning about bighorn sheep for youth and families during the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation's evening Convention at the Ramkota Inn in Casper on June 1<sup>st</sup>. People of all ages are encouraged to come visit the youth activities room during the evening's event. Great prizes including two life memberships to the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation, a guided cow elk hunt with Cole Benton, Sitka gear, Camp Bighorn youth participation, hunting bows, fishing outfits

and lots more will be available to all youth participants!



### Bighorn Sheep Center News

The National Bighorn Sheep Center reached a record 9,045 students in 2018 with the expanded partnership of the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation and National Wild Sheep Foundation. From outdoor expos to guided tours, classroom visits and education trunks shipped around the region, the National Bighorn Sheep Center is expanding the joint educational reach of all three organizations. Not only has the Center continued to reach more students, but 2018 proved to be a stellar year for visitation, with over 6,500 visitors to the Center's exhibits including over

550 adult Road Scholar guided tour participants. In addition, the Center hosted 33 special events ranging from educational presentations and field tours to wildlife stewardship projects and hands-on learning opportunities in which our volunteers participate in bighorn sheep research with wildlife biologists. In large part, this expanded partnership was initiated by Gary Butler and his family in July, 2018 with the establishment of the Conservation Education Trust Fund and a generous \$25,000 initial contribution by the Butler Family Foundation. The Center has agreed to build the principal to \$250,000 or more within the next ten years. Interest generated by this Fund will be used towards the Center's mission of educating people about bighorn sheep and the conservation of wildlife and wild lands, with the key component of partnership being formalized between the three organizations. After a visit by Gray Thornton, CEO of the Wild Sheep Foundation to the Center and the Whiskey Mountain Conservation Camp in August, 2018, a solid partnership was established. In Reno this



# GRANT IN AID UPDATES



February, the Board of Directors of the Wild Sheep Foundation approved the Conservation Education Trust Fund and its goals for joint education partnership expansion between the National Bighorn Sheep Center, Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation and National Wild Sheep Foundation. We are deeply grateful for and excited about this expanding partnership and the opportunities for reaching more youth through enriching and inspiring wildlife conservation programs. This July 7th-11th, the Center will be hosting, along with the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation, the National Wild Sheep Foundation, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, and the Dubois Boys and Girls Club, the first-ever Camp Bighorn youth summer camp for youth age 9-12 years old at the newly-renovated Whiskey Mountain Conservation Camp near Dubois. We are thrilled to be offering a full outdoor experience, from archery and hiking in the

beautiful Torrey Valley to hands-on lessons and research about bighorn sheep, to the next generation of wild sheep conservationists. Camp Bighorn is unique in that all programs have an element of bighorn sheep and wildlife conservation messaging. Alongside our critical partners, expertise from around Wyoming and the region is being brought in to help chaperone and support youth participants. Sponsorships for Camp Bighorn are coming in from Chapters and Affiliates across the country. If you are interested in sponsoring and/or sending a youth to camp, please get in touch with Sara at 307-455-3429 or [sara@bighorn.org](mailto:sara@bighorn.org). Thank you, Gary Butler for your vision and leadership, as well as to members of Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation, and especially Dr. Ryan Brock, Gray Thornton and Brett Jefferson of the Wild Sheep Foundation, for the continued partnership, vision and support! We cannot wait to see what this continued partnership and growth in 2019 will inspire next! Another top priority of the National Bighorn Sheep Center this year is raising the remaining funds necessary to kick off construction of the new classroom expansion at the Center. The current space in the Center's exhibit hall and Ron Ball Gallery is inadequate for the growing groups of student and adult visitors. In 2018, our Board of Directors

kicked off a \$375,000 campaign to raise funds to construct a modest and much-needed classroom to the Center. With support from several local foundations, the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission and others, we have raised over \$240,000 towards this campaign goal. It is our hope to complete fundraising this year, kick off construction in 2020, and be able to utilize the new classroom to more effectively and efficiently provide our education and outreach programs. Finally, in February of this year, we kicked off the first of several public collaborative meetings with the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation, Wyoming Game and Fish Department and the University of Wyoming's Ruckelshaus Institute. This process is digging deep into the management concerns, issues and opportunities surrounding the iconic Whiskey Mountain bighorn sheep herd, which has been declining. Public involvement in this process is key, and more information about the collaboration and upcoming meetings can be found at [wgfd.wyo.gov/wmbhs](http://wgfd.wyo.gov/wmbhs) or [www.bighorn.org](http://www.bighorn.org).



# “Turnin 12 in Wyoming”

## By Matthew Hayes Wakkuri

When I turned 12 in early 2018 my family and I decided I would apply for moose, bighorn sheep, and mountain goat tags in Wyoming then I had to wait 2 long months to find out that I would just be accumulating points that year. In May, it was time to apply for elk, antelope, and whitetail deer. Once we found out I had landed those tags, we also bought a general deer and a black bear tag. With a pocket full of tags, I did some target practicing for both archery and rifle. Finally in September, Dad and I went on my first archery hunt. During our hunts, we saw a lot of cool stuff. One morning while archery hunting deer, we had a buck come into range; I drew back, took a shot, and missed. It was my first time flinging an arrow

spooked him away. That was the closest I had ever been to an elk in my life. It was awesome.

During my first rifle season, my parents allowed me to take a week off of school to hunt; Dad took the week off too. With an area 7 elk tag, general deer, whitetail deer, and antelope tag in my pocket, we got our backpacks loaded with the essentials and a sack lunch. We planned to elk hunt first then see what happened from there. The first day we were looking for an elk but late in the morning, we saw a group of 50 plus antelope. With a good one in the group, elk hunting got put on hold till we could get a better look. We worked our way up a hill and snuck down into a little draw, now the antelope were right

in front of us at 60 yards. Two does spotted us and headed straight toward us – I thought we were busted for sure. Before they figured out what we were, Dad spots a good buck in the herd. He helped me get my bi pod extended and I get up on my knees, we make sure we

are both looking at the same buck and my first big game tag is filled.

Four sack lunches and as many days later, we were still glassing for elk. At 10:30 a.m. Dad asked me what I thought about a cheese burger and milkshake at Micke’s, a restaurant in Glendo, Wyoming, which is one of our favorite places to go when pheasant hunting. Of

course, I said yes, as we were hiking back to the truck we heard an elk bugle in the timber. We looked at each other and both voted for a milkshake. The first thing I did when I got my cheeseburger and milkshake was take a picture of it and send it to my mom - she was jealous! The next thing I did was spill most of it on myself! Good thing they give you the extra in the metal cup, so I had lots. When we got back to where we had left the elk bugling in the timber, we noticed that they were on the move. We hustled, hoping we could catch up to them. We hiked up to the top of the last hill we saw them go over and heard more bugling. We followed them about another  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile and crawled to the top of the next hill. Looking down on a dry riverbed and aspens, we laid down and set up to glass. Dad soon spotted a good bull in the aspens. Using my backpack and bi pod, I had a good rest for my Remington 700 .308 loaded with 150-grain nosler partitions, so now we just had to wait. When the elk finally stepped out of the trees at 265 yards, I shot three times. I hit him twice in the front shoulder and once right behind the front shoulder, I got him!

Dad and I both had to go back to work and school but still had the weekends to hunt deer. One weekend we were on top of a bluff looking down on the river hoping for a deer. It wasn’t long till we spotted one, then another. They were both nice deer and we both had tags. Dad let me choose which one I wanted, I found him in my sights, and one shot was all it took. Since the other deer just hung around, I handed the gun to Dad. Two shots two deer. Walking down



at a real target, it was good to get a chance to do it, and it really got my blood pumping. I can’t wait to do it again. Another afternoon Grandpa and I were sitting under some trees by a water hole, when a spike bull came up over the hill and right to the hole to drink at about 20 yards away. While we were watching it, my foot slipped on the rock it was resting on and

to the deer, my main thoughts were not to get bit by a snake because



tree row. I rushed around to get my gear put together. Not knowing if he would still be there, we headed out cutting through the bull's pen, after having second thoughts about that plan we retreated. We ended up crawling through the horse pasture and a (dry) irrigation ditch to get a good rest on a fence post. The deer was still there and about 160 yards away. One shot and it was done. As we were walking over to

better. I am thankful for all of the sack lunches my grandma made for my dad and I. For the time my dad took out of his busy schedule during the fall. When my dad couldn't go with me, I am thankful my grandpa could step in to help me out. My mom and my sister were always encouraging me, knowing I could do it. All of these hunts were adventures I will remember my whole life.

three years before in the exact spot, Dad and I got into a bunch of them. We had been hunting turkeys, when we heard the buzzing, Dad told me to stay still while he shot the snake we could see. We then heard more buzzing near by and I took off running for the river instead of waiting around. When we got to the other side of the river, I told dad to sell that land with the snakes on it! Thank God he didn't!

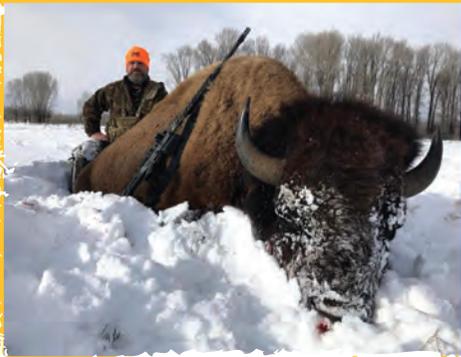
the deer I looked up and there was a coyote about 30 yards away. So, I got my first coyote that day too. What a wild day!

My first time big game hunting ended up pretty good. I had the greatest time of my life hunting. My family made it even



Three down one to go. A few weekends later we spotted a whitetail from the kitchen window, it was out in the hay meadow near the Russian olive





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# 2018 Commissioner's Tag Winner

“To see is to know, to not see is to guess”, and when you see a Big Horn sheep through your cross hairs, its nothing like you guessed it would be. In 2017, I was blessed with drawing and harvesting a 10-year-old Ram with Meade Dominick at 7D. After that harvest, I absolutely had to be part of the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation and contribute to the goals and philosophy of the foundation. At this past Annual Convention, I was the blessed winner of the Commissioners Tag Raffle after only putting in \$100. This is a tag every hunter dreams of holding!

Now the hard part begins. Which species would I go after? Elk? Deer? Antelope? Not to mention, what area I would choose or if I would use an outfitter or not. After a summer of thinking, I decided my best odds with a lifetime opportunity would be to hunt with Meade and Josh Taylor, who also helped me on my ram hunt. I also invited my good friend and professional mentor Deed Harrison to help spot and share this experience with as well.

As a born and raised Wyoming Native, I've chased elk with my dad since I was 10 years old. Never have I had the opportunity to see 6x, 7x, and 8x bulls all day. It was absolutely incredible. It seemed like every pocket of timber you looked in had mature bulls.

Around noon on the first day, a snow squall came in and shut the visibility down on glassing. I remember the four of us (Meade,

Josh, Deed, and myself) sitting under a tree shelter around a fire, waiting for it to break. At this point, I felt as though I was in a dream and at any point I would wake up and none of it would be real. To share a fire with three of the best people I know, on a mountain covered in elk and snow, made all the problems of the world vanish like smoke from the fire. As I sat there, I reflected on the philosophy of the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation and the importance of putting kids in the mountains so they can know what peace truly feels like in an ever-changing world.

The snow turned from a squall into a full on storm, so we went to the lower country as the forecast was set on a heavy amount of snow. As we were headed out, we stopped by a friend of Meade's, to kill some time and visit. During the conversation, Meade's friend was telling us about a bull he had found matched sheds to, two years in row, that were palmated and non-typical. He proceeded to show us the set from 2 years prior, as he had sold the most recent set. Once I laid eyes on that set of sheds, I told everyone there if that bull stepped out I wouldn't hesitate to shoot. How often do you get to shoot a non-typical palmated bull? We talked the rest of the night about "moose bull", and what an amazing harvest that would be.

The following morning, the mountain had a heavy blanket of snow, so we jammed up a different drainage to look for different bulls. As we approached

the crest of this ridge overlooking a basin of broken timber, I spotted a nice 6x that slipped into a strip of timber. Meade moved 40 yards up the crest to get a better look at him if he came out, and we stayed lower to keep glassing the rest of the basin. All the sudden Meade whistled, and my blood pressure spiked. If you know Meade at all, you know he doesn't get excited about too much. If Meade whistles, it's damn important. I grabbed my rifle and pack to run Meade's side. As I got there, two bulls busted into a meadow across the drainage from us, spooked from something in the trees. I threw my pack down and saddled up on it with my rifle. As I was finding the bulls in my scope, Meade exclaimed in a whisper, "MOOSE BULL"!!! Time froze for me. I forgot about laying in 10 inches of snow, I forgot about how cold it was. The moment that we fantasized about the night prior was manifested less than 24 hours later. I had shot my rifle all summer; hand loaded my own bullets, created my own dope chart for this moment. When Meade said 470 yards, I was as confident as if he had said 100 yards. Just as I found the bulls in my scope they stopped in the meadow and looked back in the timber to see what spooked them. I instantly found "moose bull," and squeezed the trigger.

**There is an overwhelming amount of emotions when you see an old mountain troll fall.**

# Life Member Miles Fortner

I roared with excitement and joy, in fact I bet the good folks of Cody could hear me. Knowing he had survived against hard winters, wolves, bears, and hunters, demands respect. Many of my friends and family have asked me what he scores. My reply is 10...10 out of 10. I measured his main beam length for the game and fish to send in with his teeth. However, when I started to measure his first mass measurement, I had a feeling

like I was disrespecting the bull. I could care less about how many inches a certain group of gentlemen feel is important.

This was truly an elk hunt of a lifetime, shared by some of the finest hunters and humans on the planet. Meade, Josh and Deed;

I am forever grateful for your friendship and help in this hunt. Meade and Josh also helped me buy both sets of sheds found from this bull

over the last two years as well.

Thank you WWSF  
for the raffle and  
Thank you  
Commissioner  
Mike Schmid for  
your generous  
donation of the  
Commissioners tag.



7D Ranch Outfitter, Meade Dominick, Josh Taylor, Grit and LM Miles Fortner Celebrate !

# 2018 Seminoe Ram

## By LM Chris Otto

When Steve Kilpatrick contacted me in September to ask if I would like to put together a few words about hunting sheep in the Seminoe and Ferris Mountains during the 2018 season, I wasn't sure how to respond. Although I'm not much of a storyteller (but still a pretty good bull-shitter), my friends and I did feel that it is really important to express our thanks and gratitude for the gift and opportunity to enjoy, chase, and possibly take a bighorn sheep in our corner of Wyoming. We wanted to make sure and emphasize that sheep returning to this area is made possible entirely by the WWSF, its members and volunteers, surrounding landowners, agencies such as the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, and especially dedicated individuals.

Mike Murry and I were joking the other day about putting down our thoughts about the work done to reintroduce sheep to the area from our "redneck" perspective. Mike corrected me and

asserted that we aren't rednecks, we're "conservationists", so we compromised that we're "redneck-conservationists." The bottom line is that as locals, we've been blessed to experience this relatively hidden area for all of our lives. Our families introduced us to these special places through many long-past hunting seasons, and we have had the privilege of continuing to experience this great area with our children, nieces, nephews, stepchildren, and in many cases, new friends and their families. We've been privileged to work around and with many, many landowners, dedicated individuals, and organizations that have continued to put their footprints on the mountain, both figuratively and literally, to enhance wildlife habitat while continuing to enhance and highlight the multiple-use values of the area.

The success of bringing bighorn sheep to these areas amid a variety of multiple uses needs to be emphasized.

The Ferris, Seminoe, and Bennett Mountain ranges are home to a host of multiple uses: livestock grazing occurs throughout the ranges, while a Wildlife Habitat Management Area managed by WGFD sits square in the middle of them. Two major dams impound thousands of acre-ft. of irrigation water and provide hydro-power to surrounding areas, while providing world class sport-fishing up and down-stream, with a state park and a multitude of recreational opportunities on Seminoe Reservoir. Portions of the ranges are crossed by power-lines and pipelines, and include mining claims and roaded areas, yet road less and extremely rugged Wilderness Study Areas lie over much of the Ferris Range and a portion of the Bennetts. This diversity of uses is a perfect example of how the varied uses can and do occur with limited impact to others. It's no secret (at least in this

area) that world-class big game hunting occurs throughout the area, alongside the traditional, industrial, extractive, and non-consumptive uses.

Re-introducing bighorn sheep to the mix only enhances and emphasizes many coexisting uses and the cooperation that has occurred to bring sheep to the mountains. During the early 2000s, the 760 Ranch, which owns the Stone Ranch bordering Ferris Mountain on the south, agreed to convert a large portion of their operation, including deeded, state trust leases, and BLM permits, from domestic sheep use to a cattle operation. It was no easy feat, as much of the low country surrounding the mountain was devoid of water sources. Through cooperative efforts between the ranch, WGFD, and BLM, a number of wells were drilled to accommodate seasonal cattle use. WWSF was a pivotal player and paid for much of the work. It hasn't always been a smooth road, but the ranch continues to operate throughout its historic ground, provides hunting opportunities throughout their deeded and leased lands for the asking, and by converting from domestic sheep, have allowed for bighorns to reside on and adjacent to their lands and permits. This is only one example; Ferris Mountain Ranch allows for access to the mountain via a Walk-in Area through the WGFD Private Lands/Public Access program. Pathfinder Ranches allows for hunting use on deeded lands through another Walk-in Area. Kortess Ranch along the north slope of the Bennetts and Cherry Creek Grazing Association on Ferris Mountain have allowed and continue to allow access for the price of asking. The ID Ranch along the south slope of the Seminoes has converted miles of formerly "sheep-tight" woven wire fence to wildlife friendly 3 and 4 strand barbed to facilitate wildlife passage, and addresses conifer encroachment in sage grouse habitat through mechanical treatments. As noted earlier, WGFD manages Bureau of Reclamation lands within the Morgan Creek watershed for habitat values. All of these landowners and organizations continue to work with WWSF and other non-profits,



various land management agencies, and WGFD to enhance deeded, state trust, and federal public lands for current and future habitat and forage values.

Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation has been pivotal in putting sheep back in these mountain ranges. The Foundation realized early-on that a multitude of cooperative projects would be necessary to sustain sheep on the mountains, and has put countless hours and dollars into habitat improvement projects during the last 10 to 20 years. In addition to the previously mentioned water sources, the ball was rolling in the late 2000s to treat vegetation on Ferris Mountain with prescribed fire, and the WWSF committed to funding a significant portion of the planned burns. In 2011, around 1,500 acres burned during a managed wildfire late in the season, and in 2012, the eastern quarter of the mountain range, about 6,000, acres burned during a summer wildfire. WWSF allowed contributed funds to be put towards temporary fencing along the base of the mountain to defer livestock use and provide a couple summers of vegetation recovery. The program of prescribed fire is planned to continue along the mountain range, improving habitat and providing for anticipated future growth of the herd. Additionally, through a huge investment in funds, time, and especially sweat-equity, the Foundation and its members installed four guzzlers along the spine of the range to provide additional water sources for expanding bands of sheep. WWSF has also been a major contributor to multiple aerial cheat grass treatments on the Ferris range, in order to enhance native forage which benefits both wildlife and livestock use.

In the Seminoes, the WWSF has been a major contributor to over 4,700 acres treated with 3 separate prescribed burns, with an additional 1200 planned for the immediate future. More than 3,800 acres burned in a 2012 mid-summer wildfire. WWSF has contributed to several aerial treatments of cheat grass associated with fire on the mountain, as well as infestations

in unburned areas. As with Ferris, WWSF volunteers spent many man-hours and effort installing a guzzler on the south spine of the range, and funds were applied to repairing two existing guzzlers damaged by wildfire. Cut and pile conifer treatments have been implemented and are planned to prepare lines for prescribed burning and to enhance aspen and mountain shrub habitats where prescribed burning is impractical.

Yet another guzzler was installed in the Bennett Mountains through the hard work and donated time of WWSF volunteers. A 2007 wildfire on the south slopes of the range provides several hundred acres of rugged, isolated sheep habitat preferred by bands of rams, ewes, and lambs. Along with treatments in the Ferris and Seminoe ranges, aerial application of herbicide addresses invasive cheat grass and enhances native bunch grasses, again funded with WWSF dollars.

Obviously most influential of all, the WWSF has been instrumental in completing multiple captures and releases of wild sheep from various herds including the Devil's Canyon herd into the Ferris and Seminoe Mountain ranges. Sheep from the Seminoe releases have colonized the Bennett range across Seminoe Reservoir and the area around the Miracle Mile. All of these projects, coupled with spring developments/riparian enhancements, fence conversions, and conservation-minded, sustainable livestock management, have led to an expanding, healthy bighorn sheep population on all three ranges.

I need to express a special thank you to the best group of sheep hunting partners anyone could ever ask for: Mike Murry, Andy

Skordas, Ryan Amundson, and Scotty and Stromie Williams. I've been especially blessed by my kids Riley and Tyler and my wife Mickie for chasing critters around these mountains with me and spending a boat-load of money on sheep hunting "essentials". As said previously, we've been blessed to hunt these mountains, and especially to be a part of the effort that has restored wild sheep to the area. I still remember in the mid 2000s when Kevin Hurley was first discussing re-introducing sheep to the mountains, he specifically stated that, "make no mistake about it; we're looking to start hunting these sheep as soon as we can sustainability do it." It's happened faster and more successfully than I would have ever imagined. As a local who is proud to have brought up my children in this area, I want to see the opportunity continued and increased for our kids, grandkids, friends, and families. I'm extremely proud to have shared the mountain and the effort with the members of the WWSF. I can truthfully say that the WWSF and its members are the most pro-active and "boots-on-the-ground" group of folks that I've had the privilege to work with and be a part of.

I cannot express enough thanks to this group for the work that's been done to put sheep on these mountains, and I'm excited to help continuing the work to expand these populations and pay foreword the opportunity for more folks to chase sheep and other wildlife in the Ferris, Seminoe, and Bennett mountains. Thanks again, WWSF has a hell of a lot to be proud of.



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## “JonDavid’s First Hunt” By JonDavid Tator

I wake to my Dad shaking me. It takes me a minute, but I finally remember where I am - in a large wall tent, on a cot, at hunting camp with my Dad, Uncle Kyle, and my two cousins. It is five-thirty in the morning. I groggily sit up and look around. It's the first day of hunting. My Dad, uncle, and I all have antelope tags and I have a deer tag, as well. My little cousins are still asleep, while my uncle is trying to wake them up. “Morning, JonDavid,” Says Uncle Kyle. “Hey,” I say, climbing out of bed to get dressed. “How did you sleep?” Dad asks, handing me a bowl of oatmeal. “Good, considering how cold it was,” I say with a smile. “Good,” Says Uncle Kyle “Because the deer aren’t going to shoot themselves!” When my cousins finally wake up, they slowly eat their oatmeal, we

load up the truck with our gear and head out. As we drive through the forest in the early morning, I realize that I might be taking an animal’s life today. It makes me nervous. We drive for about an hour and then wait for it to get light. At first light, we see a small group of bucks hiding in the aspen trees. My Dad and I hop out of the truck to get a better look at them, but they disappeared in the trees! Then, out of nowhere, a little buck pops out at us and trots over the hill in front of us. My Dad and I hurry over there and look at him. We find out that he’s a fork horn. I’m about to shoot when he suddenly runs off again! By then, I think he’s gone. And he was. We never saw him again. The next two hours are more of the same. We see two more groups of deer with no good shots. We decided to head to town and then to our antelope



Ross Gorman  
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area. Luckily, my two areas nearly overlapped each other. But first, we had to go through town. We stopped for gas and a powerade and then headed out in search of pronghorn. On the way to the area, these two guys told us that there has been a buck hanging around their camp in the mornings and led us to the spot. We found him on top of a ridge, but he ran off as we were looking at him. "Looks like a JonDavid buck to me!" said Uncle Kyle. "I agree," said Dad. We decide to look somewhere else and come back if we found nothing. We drove on for a little while before eventually finding a large group of antelope in a meadow. We climbed up a ridge above the meadow and found a few bucks. They smelled us, though and started to move on. We moved on too, to another spot further down the ridge. We slowly topped over and waited for them to come closer. "I see a decent buck, probably a shooter," said Uncle Kyle. We decided that Uncle Kyle would have the shot due to the distance. When they came, my uncle got ready to shoot. He squeezed the trigger and...

Click!  
"What?" said Uncle Kyle with a confused look on his face. "Uh oh, I forgot to jack a shell in the chamber!" he said as he smiled. He got a shell in the chamber, but the antelope were moving on, so he had to hurry and get lined up. Again, he slowly squeezed the trigger and... Bang-Thunk!  
He hit him, but he didn't drop right away. The herd ran for about seven hundred yards before coming to a stop. The buck my uncle hit laid down and didn't move. "Did you account for the wind, Kyle?" asked my Dad. "No, I didn't," Uncle Kyle replied. "Then you probably hit him a little far back." We decided that my uncle was going to go down there, get closer, and try to shoot him again. He headed out and the rest of us loaded back up in the truck to get out of the wind. We hung out for a while before my dad finally announced that the antelope was down for good. We drove around and got out. Uncle Kyle met us half way to where the antelope was.

"I didn't make a very good shot the first time," said Uncle Kyle. We walked over to the antelope and took pictures, then began quartering and skinning him. When we were done, we packed him out back to the truck and were on our way back to camp. By now, it was almost last light. On the way back though, a miracle happened. There was another group of antelope, right off the road! Even better, there was a buck standing off to the side! My Dad and I hurried and jumped out of the truck, ran out of the right-a-way and set my gun on a sagebrush. And I swear, I'll never forget what my dad said right then: "Kill Him"  
I lined up and slowly squeezed the trigger and... Bang-Thunk!  
The buck looked up and ran about forty yards before flopping down, dead. Meanwhile, I was just sitting there in awe. My dad and I high fived, then hugged. Uncle Kyle drove back up and got out. "Great job, Buddy!" said Uncle Kyle, hugging me. I ran over to my buck with everyone following suit. I looked at the shot I made - square in the shoulder! Everyone caught up and looked too. "Nice shot!" was what everyone was saying to me. We took lots of pictures and decided to gut him since it was getting dark, fast. Uncle Kyle pulled the truck around to get closer and opened the tailgate. "Before we start gutting, I wanted to give you this," said Dad, holding out a leather sheath with a knife inside. "It was mine when I was a kid," he said. "Thanks, Dad!" I said. I hugged him again. We turned and started gutting the antelope. When we were done, we loaded it up in the back of the truck and drove off. I was so excited about my antelope! And, I still had one more tag to fill. As I went to bed that night, little did I know that within a few short hours, both of my tags would be filled....

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



LM Bob Sherd



LM Joe Kondelis



LM Zach McDermott

# Member's Gallery

LM Ian Tator

LM Sue Fortner





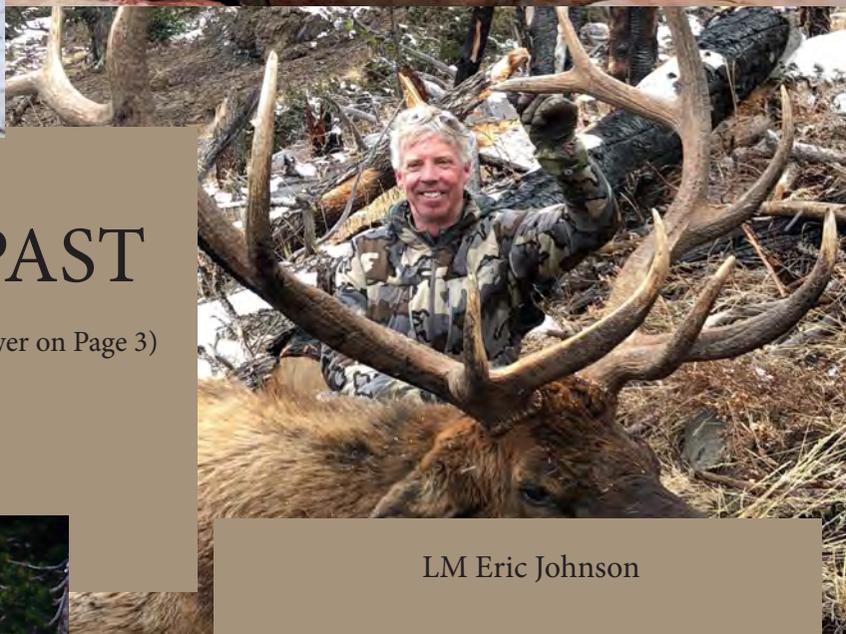
Adam Wickes with son Grant and Adam's 1st Elk.



LM Jimmy Owens & friends,  
Muddy Mtn. NV, 10 year old Ram.

# BLAST FROM THE PAST

DO YOU KNOW THESE GALS? (Answer on Page 3)



LM Eric Johnson



LM Steve Brock



## “A Tough Hunt” or “Mama Don’t Let Your Babies Grow Up to be Goat Hunters” by LM Larry Thomen

*“Just because you have been sheep hunting, you think you are man enough to hunt goats? Let me tell you something, sheep hunting is what old hunters go do after they are too worn out and broken down to hunt goats. When you go into goat country you will climb past the sheep to get where the goats live. There are only two critters on Earth crazy enough to reach the top of those steep mountain ledges: goats and goat hunters. If you think you can do it, you better bring a big can of tough with you.” –An old goat hunter.*

Some folks have asked me about the “toughest hunt” I’d been on over the years. When you factor in the dual “D’s” of “danger” and “difficulty”, plus throw in a third I’ll call “dumbness”, an Alaskan goat hunt certainly comes to mind.

A little background information may help you understand why my wife (Nance) and I were in Haines, Alaska in mid-October of 1999. After retirement, we spent 6 weeks traveling around “The Great Land” in our recreation vehicle to get rid of that “Alaskan itch” we’d been plagued with for decades. It didn’t work! In fact, it merely whetted our appetite for “MORE”. We returned to Wyoming, reassessed our retirement plans, leased out our Wyoming property, and shortly after, purchased a home on the Kenai Peninsula in Alaska and moved in. The two top items on my Alaskan hunting “bucket” list were a Dall sheep and a mountain goat. However, Alaska requires non-residents to hire a guide to hunt those species (unless you have a close family member that is an Alaskan resident that will guide you.) I don’t have any problems with guides or outfitters, but I really have a lot more hunting fun on the “do-it-yourself” plan. Haines, Alaska was on our list of places to visit. It has the largest wintering population of eagles in the world and the high mountains above Haines have a population of mountain goats. Nance was mostly interested in seeing all the eagles and I was intrigued by the eagles also but even more so by the mountain goats.

Once I became an Alaskan resident (and hence didn’t require a licensed guide to hunt mountain goats), we decided to make the long trip to Haines and discovered it was a beautiful town in a spectacular location. There were two small sporting goods stores in town. I visited both of them and talked to the staff about where I might find mountain goats. They both casually suggested that one could occasionally see some goats high on the mountains above the Chilkat River a short distance out of town. We were planning a drive in that direction to see the eagles so I dug out my spotting scope and took it along. After glassing the mountains for some time, I noticed some small white dots high on one mountain. I cranked the spotting scope up to 45 power and eventually determined they were indeed, mountain goats. We returned to Haines where I purchased some USGS topographic maps and dug out some of my hunting gear from our heavily loaded pickup truck. Early the next morning, I drove back up the road, parked the truck, put on my frame pack, grabbed my rifle and started climbing.

Some stretches were very steep and it was necessary to cross-sling the rifle across my back so I could use both hands to pull myself up the cliff face. I was in a particularly precarious situation with limited hand holds and a long drop to the rocks below when I glimpsed and heard a large object hurling towards me. I frantically clung to the rocks as the object swerved and I felt the air blast as it just barely missed me. It was a very large golden eagle. I had read accounts of eagles using this tactic to surprise and frighten prey animals such as young sheep and goats into falling and hence becoming instant eagle cuisine. Apparently this opportunistic eagle was considering an expansion of its menu! The golden eagle, or perhaps it was a different one, tried the scare tactic on me twice more during my climb. It always timed it where I was in a tenuous location and a slip would have resulted in severe injuries or

worse. However, I now knew its intent so the second and third attempts were not as nerve-wracking as the first one that literally came out of the blue.

I had started at just above sea level and according to my map, I saw the first group of goats slightly under 4,000 feet. They were about 300 yards away. I glassed them and determined they were a couple of nannies with their young. The nannies were legal but small, so I decided to keep climbing. Shortly after, I noticed a large lone goat working his way across what seemed to be a vertical cliff face 4-500 yards west of me. I watched in awe as he casually somehow found footholds on the rock face and he finally, at about 300 yards, came into range. I settled into a prone position for the shot, when suddenly, (and finally!) I had a “light bulb moment”. What about game retrieval? If I shot the large goat, it would tumble several hundred feet as a minimum to the rocks below. I did not have ropes long enough or the technical climbing gear to even consider such a retrieve. I continued to watch him, hoping he would reach a better location, but he slowly worked his way up the precipitous slope and out of sight.

I continued to climb and came to a small level grassy ledge that had a 4-5 foot diameter cave in the soil and rocks on the backside. The damp recently excavated soil contained huge brown/grizzly bear tracks and a strong bear odor was obvious. I looked into the darkness of the den and could not see its end or (fortunately) its builder/occupant. The large bear was apparently building its winter hibernation den.

I continued upward and saw a nice looking goat on a little rock ridge about 120 yards in front of me. I made a quick decision, took aim, and shot. It rolled and slid about 200 feet down the mountain, but thankfully stopped on a little ledge just before a steep drop off. It was a large nanny with 9 ½” horns. I was hoping to get a male (billy) but it is difficult to tell them apart unless you are quite close or

have a lot of time to observe behavior, etc. Both sexes are legal and this one had real even ebony black horns and an absolutely beautiful cape. It had a thick (2-3") wool-like coat and, once I started dressing it out, layers of fat like no other animal I've ever seen with the exception of a late fall bear. I was up around 4,500 feet, several miles from my pickup, and it was getting late. I quickly snapped a picture (see picture on front page) of my trophy and had just started to clean, cape, and bone out the meat when it started to snow. I caped out the animal for a shoulder mount as far as the head, rolled up the head & cape, and set it aside for later packing. I reluctantly left the beautiful long hair "pantaloon" around the legs because of weight considerations. I boned the meat out from the entire animal in a blinding snowstorm and started to pack everything into and onto my aluminum frame backpack. The wet snow made everything, especially the cape and head, extra heavy, which I did not need! I was not looking forward to sliding/climbing down the steep now snow-covered and slippery mountain with all that weight in my pack. I had to make a decision on whether to carry my rifle for bear protection or tie it to my pack frame so I could use both hands on the descent down the precipitous slope. I reasoned that I probably wouldn't encounter a bear, but I certainly would need two hands to hang on to the rocks and anything else I could hang onto on my way down. I tied the rifle securely to one side of the pack frame with nylon parachute cord, put the pack on and struggled upright under its weight. The pack seemed heavier than any other load I'd packed and I had previously carried 115 lbs. plus loads over the years. I

optimistically dismissed that foolish thought and decided I must just be getting old. I then wondered if I was being insane to try and climb down the precipitous mountain with such a load in a snowstorm. Then I thought about climbing back up the next day and, not knowing what the snow storm would do, decided I'd best just stop feeling wimpy, suck it up and head down the mountain. It was still snowing and foggy, but I was on track as I descended as far as the bear den.



I went past it rapidly as I undoubtedly smelled very good to an ole griz with my monstrous load of bloody meat plus the fact that my clothes were saturated with blood from caping and boning out the goat in the wet snow.

I fortunately dropped below the snow line at about 3,500' but encountered thick fog. I couldn't see my landmarks but continued down on what I thought was the correct route.

WRONG! I got "rim rocked" at the top of a sheer cliff. I had to climb partway back up the steep slope and try another route. The pack weight about wiped me out. In fact, to be honest, I just barely made it. It was starting to get dark and if my plan "B" route did not work out I would have to spend a wet cold night high on the mountain. Not a preferred option in bear country with a pack full of bloody meat and wearing bloody clothes besides.

I traveled west several hundred yards and hopefully started down my plan "B" route. After a short distance, route "B" turned out to be a steep narrow avalanche chute that plummeted off the mountain. I did not want to be in a dangerous avalanche chute, but had to live with it at this point. The slide rock was slippery but climbable. I was dropping off one steep section when I started to slip. I desperately dug my Danner boots in for some more traction before I tumbled off the mountain. I felt a sharp pain in my right foot and something went "pop". That was the bad news. The good news was that it caught some support and I had stopped sliding and falling. Eventually the avalanche chute leveled out somewhat but became very narrow with steep rock walls on each side. It was almost dark and as I went around a huge boulder in the avalanche chute I came face to face with a very large black bear. It is amazing what a massive

dose of bear-induced adrenaline can do to a fatigued mind and body! My brain immediately went into "fast forward" and started processing data: Bear is less than 10' away—square head, short ears, biggest black I've ever seen—at least it's a black and not a griz—whoops—remember that blacks on the hunt are as dangerous as griz—can't get to my rifle in time the way it's tied on. The smart thing to

## “Larry’s Goat Hunt”

### Continued from Page 56

do is drop the pack and let him have the goat, NO WAY! I couldn’t climb the steep rock sides of the chute if I wanted to. I shouted at the huge bear at the top of my lungs three times to no avail. He just kept swinging his big old square head from side to side and sniffing the air, which contained all the bloody meat smells exuding from my pack, and ME! Obviously he was thinking “my dinner just walked right to me, how convenient”! I was wearing a pair of soaking wet buckskin gloves so I desperately tried clapping my hands together loudly to sound like a gunshot. These bears are hunted so I hoped this one might be leery of gunshots. The first time I clapped, the bear went into an alert posture. The third time I clapped he turned and somehow scratched his way up the steep rock wall and left, leaving behind a very relieved goat hunter whose underwear was somehow still intact! I continued my semi-controlled fall down the mountain and this tired old goat hunter (I was 2 months shy of my 60th birthday at the time) got to the pickup truck well after dark. I put the pack and its precious cargo in the truck and slowly drove back to our motel room in Haines. My worried wife looked at me in shock when I walked into the room. I took off my bloody clothes and boots. When I pulled off my right boot, the sock was very bloody. When I pulled the sock off, the toenail from my big toe came off also. Now I knew what the sharp pain and “pop” was as I descended the mountain. I hadn’t trimmed the nail closely enough and it had hooked in the top of my boot when I was in “scramble mode” and popped the nail completely out of the quick. (It did grow back and exactly one year later I was able to trim the new nail for the first time.) The heavy pack had worn grooves in my lower back that likewise took several months to level out and heal. I have no idea how much that pack weighed and have no desire to ever know, but I suspect it was a new personal steep terrain “haul record” for this ole codger!. The thought “-that if you’re gonna be dumb, ya

gotta be tough” comes to mind.

Two days later I went back to the sporting goods store to thank the clerk for his advice. He gave me a strange look and said “You really went up there—AND GOT ONE!?” He then called the manager and he was likewise surprised that I had successfully climbed the mountain and enthusiastically shook my hand in congratulations. I went to the second store and received the same reaction. It seems that was their standard answer to goat hunting inquiries and, after looking at the terrain, the wannabe goat hunters invariably returned to town.

The goat mount is now on the wall of our den. When I look at my goat, I’m reminded of a comment by the famed conservationist and hunter, Aldo Leopold. He once observed “The value of a hunt’s result is directly proportional to the effort invested”. How true—I’ll never forget this hunt.

Epilogue: Hal Waugh was one of Alaskan most famous guides. So highly was he thought of that when Alaska established a rating of Master Guide, Hal Waugh was given the honor of receiving the prestigious Master Guide license number one. His quote regarding goat hunting is very appropriate in my humble opinion.

“Goat hunting is far more dangerous than hunting grizzly bear and the great brown. This fact is not due to any aggressiveness from the goat, but rather the terrain the hunter must traverse while negotiating the animal’s habitat. Comparatively few hunters have the will, stamina, and know how to ascend the jagged peaks after mountain goat.”

Nance, my wife, read the quote, shook her head, looked at me and said “well two out of three isn’t bad”. I was savvy enough not to ask which two!

Hunting a bighorn sheep is on every hunter’s bucket list. Like most hunters, I thought this opportunity might never happen. After retiring from 30 years in education, I tried to stay active and stay in shape. Springtime would always find me helping local ranchers with their brandings. Being a former wrestler, my greatest assets at these brandings was wrestling calves. In the summer, I would entertain people by being a senior citizen playing softball with 20 and 30 year-olds. In the fall, I would try to stay in shape by guiding hunters part-time. When you are quickly approaching 60, nothing is really going to get you in shape for sheep hunting.

One day in May, I was getting ready to go out to the golf course and I got a call from a former student of mine, Mike Owens. He sounded pretty excited on the phone. He informed me that his brother (Jim Owens, Lost Creek Outfitters) told him to call me and tell me that I had drawn a Bighorn Sheep tag! I told him to quit messing with me because I knew it wasn’t possible. I only had 14 preference points. I had heard that it took 22 points to get drawn. He laughed and told me to go to the Wyoming Game and Fish page and look for myself. I informed him that I knew where he lived. “If I go to the website and find out I didn’t draw, I’m going to head out to your ranch and physically abuse you!” Sure enough, I had drawn! Now what!?!

I had drawn the coveted Area 2 tag. It was known for lots of sheep, very nice sheep, and rugged...very rugged country. Area 2 basically ran from Cody, WY to Yellowstone National Park and North to Sunlight Basin. Back in the early ‘80s I had a job as a backcountry guide for a wilderness ranch camp for kids in that area. I knew that country well and remembered how rugged it was. It was difficult country when I was in my 20’s. I was pretty sure it hadn’t gotten any nicer in 30+ years.

# “You’ve Done Harder Things”

By Brian Balfour

Now what? How is a person pushing 60 going to get in shape? I could switch to “light” beer! I could start exercising! The light beer option sounded much easier, but I figured I’d better do both! Softball season was coming up... that would help. I started riding my bike. I used my wife’s elliptical for 20 minutes every day. I tried to hike every day on Casper Mountain carrying my day pack that progressively got heavier. The only problem with that was the highest altitude on Casper Mountain was only about 8,000 feet. I figured I’d be hunting around 10,000+ ft. To compensate, I would pick up the pace of my hikes. I was beginning to believe my misconception that I was getting in shape for this hunt. I kept telling myself, “You’ve got lots of time, sheep season isn’t until September 1<sup>st</sup>.”

I reached out to Jimmy and Mike Owens of Lost Creek Outfitters. They said they had spots available and they’d be happy to take me. “We have an area that we would LOVE to take you to!” When the Owens boys told me that, I immediately became cautious. I had them in school. This would be a perfect time for paybacks to Mr. Balfour! One thing is for sure, the Owens know sheep! I

was confident we’d find sheep.

Next thing I needed to do was decide what rifle I wanted to use. I had a few different rifles to choose from. I decided to use my



270 wsm in a Winchester Model 70 Featherweight. I felt comfortable shooting this rifle and it was lighter than several of my other choices. I had a Leupold VX5 2-12 x 42 mounted on the rifle. My rifle really seemed to prefer a 140 gr. bonded bullet. From all of the articles I had read, I learned that in Area 2, my shots could be anywhere from 100

yards to 600 yards. I wasn’t used to shooting over 200 yards, so I needed to start practicing. It just so happened that I had the availability of a very qualified teacher, Mike

Owens. Mike owns and operates Teapot Creek Precision. He manufactures custom rifles and does various gun smithing. He has a 1,000 yard range out on the ranch behind his house. I got to where I was very confident at hitting a 6 inch bulls-eye at 400 yards. At 600 yards, I could hit a 6 inch bull about every other shot.

Mike and I left for our base camp on August 27<sup>th</sup>, three days before my season was scheduled to open. That would give us two full days to scout for sheep before the opening day. It had been reported that the day before, our base camp had received six inches of snow. It was important that we got an early start in case we ran

into issues on the ride in. We arrived at our trail head at about 9:00 a.m.. We unloaded all the equipment and livestock. We had 4 pack animals and 2 riding animals. All of the pack animals and one of the riding animals were mules. I rode the only horse. Mules make an excellent choice in rugged country. They are much more sure footed than horses. I started to

wonder, "Then why did you give me a horse?" Once again, I tried to think back to when I had Mike and Jim in school and tried to think of an instance that they might want to enact some kind of revenge on me. I helped Mike pack the mules with our equipment and prepared for our three hour ride to our base camp.

It was a beautiful ride to base camp. We steadily climbed, higher and higher. The excitement of the hunt actually going to happen really began to sink in. I could hardly wait to get to camp and begin scouting. When we arrived at the location where we intended to set up camp, we first had to shovel snow to clear a spot where we wanted to set up our tent. Next, we were tasked with unpacking and setting up camp. Camp sat at 10,100 ft. above sea level. Oxygen was in short supply. We worked steadfastly at setting up the tent. It was a brand new tent and neither of us had ever set one like this up before and we were both too stubborn to read the directions. When it was erected in a way that looked similar to the "picture" we decided that we were done. We gave the animals some food and water. Now, I think we were finally ready to start scouting. By now we only had a few hours before dark. Up was the only direction for us to go, so up we went. At 11,000 feet, we found a good vantage point and started looking for sheep.

I learned very quickly that good optics are a must for sheep hunting. The country is big country. Huge cliffs, shale slopes, timber, and deep canyons were everywhere we could see. Out of nowhere, a ewe and lamb came into view. No rams were to be found. It was beginning to get dark. We gave up scouting and headed back to camp. When we got back to camp, we looked up and saw three ewes and two lambs right above camp. We watched them until it was too dark to see. Now it was time for a long awaited meal. If you aren't hungry after a day of sheep hunting, you didn't sheep hunt!! After a quality meal, it was time to hit the sack and get some much needed rest.

Day 2, August 30 was going to prove to be a lot tougher. Once again, we climbed up. We glassed in

the same canyon that we had glassed the day before...nothing. We then advanced to the next ridge. Once again, nothing. So, we continued to the next ridge. In that drainage we discovered some ewes and lambs. Needless to say, at this point I was really beginning to get frustrated at seeing only lambs and ewes. We decided to go look back and look in the other direction from camp. The Absoraka Range does not consist of one ridge that you can walk and look into canyons. We had to climb up, then down, then up, then down, then up, etc. until we got back to camp. Feeling nearly exhausted, we mustered up the energy to do one more climb. On this particular ridge, we saw more lambs and ewes, no rams. We saw a total of 17 lambs and ewes on this day, just no rams. We willed ourselves to stay positive in expectation of the next day.

Day 3, August 31<sup>st</sup>, began just like all the other days, with an uphill climb. The legs and lungs were burning a lot more on this trek than they had on the previous trips. After hiking across three drainages, we found a good vantage point to glass. On the far ridge, we found rams! Three rams! One looked particularly nice. We sat for hours watching them and trying to figure out what their intentions were. As we sat there, two other rams came into view below us. All five rams were nice rams. We decided to back out, hike our 2.5 miles back to camp, and get ready for the hunt tomorrow. Finally!! We found rams! Sleep was a little bit harder that night. Visions of the next day's hunt kept dancing through my head.

The alarm went off at 4:00 a.m. We quickly prepared breakfast and tended to the animals. The mules and horse had to stay in camp. Where we were going, it was impossible for a pack animal to navigate. We threw on our packs, donned our optics, grabbed my rifle, and headed out in the dark. We wanted to be on the ridge top at first light. The ridge would be impossible to traverse in the dark, so we were trying to time it so we would reach the ridge at first light. We would then start our hike to where we saw the rams yesterday. Before we reached

our desired destination though, we were pleasantly surprised.

After only a short time glassing from the ridge, we spotted rams, lots of rams! There were a total of 10 rams on the far side of the drainage. The only way to get closer was to carefully negotiate our way off of the ridge. This was not going to be an easy task. One wrong step or a slip and we would tumble to a certain disastrous ending. We scoured the terrain and finally decided on the safest route. We slowly and carefully climbed down while always trying to keep an eye on the rams. After about an hour and a half of climbing down, we were finally where we wanted to be. There was one big problem. The rams were no longer where they were. They had worked their way into the trees. There was not a clear shot to be had. The range was just over 600 yards. I did not feel comfortable taking that long of a shot. We had to move forward. We hadn't moved 50 yards when we looked up and saw all 10 rams scaling the face of a cliff and heading out of the drainage. The wind had swirled and they must have smelled us. They weren't even looking back. They were focused and clearing the ridge and heading out of the area. There was nothing we could do except turn around and climb back out of the drainage. This task took a couple of hours. It was about noon when we reached the top. We looked at each other and decided there was still a lot of time to hunt and we haven't even gotten to the drainage where we saw the rams the day before. So off we went.

The climb out of the canyon took a bigger toll on us than we thought. Once we reached the desired canyon, we sat down for a much needed rest and started glassing. We didn't rest long. We found three bedded rams on the opposite wall of the canyon. Once again we descended from the ridge. Our trek involved climbing down small cliffs, walking across shale slides, and navigating through crevices. Finally, we ran out of cover and the wind was unpredictable. Four hundred yards was a close as we could get. Of the three rams, there was one that stood out. It was a full curl ram that carried its mass

out nicely throughout the length of his horns. This was the ram to take. BUT...I had to wait until it stood up.

We laid in the rocks for over an hour waiting for him to give me a good shot. I practiced my shot several times. I would look through my scope and dry fire my rifle to make sure that I wasn't jerking the trigger or pulling it off target when I'd squeeze off the shot. Everything was feeling great. I just needed my chance. "He's up!" loudly whispered Mike. "Chamber a round!" That was a command I didn't need to wait to hear. I was already locked and loaded looking at the ram through my scope. Mike quietly said 400 yards. "With this downhill angle, shoot as if it is 350-375 yards." I made a few adjustments on my scope and I was ready to go.

The moment of truth soon presented itself. The ram slowly walked to my left and gave me a nice broadside shot. I focused my cross hairs on the spot where I wanted the bullet to hit. The ram was slightly quartered away. Mike said, "See the offside front leg?" "Aim just an inch or two behind it." "Let it fly whenever you're ready." I squeezed the trigger and rifle exploded. I tried to focus on the ram through my scope. Mike yells out, "Hell yeah Balfour!" "That's a dead sheep." "Put another round in him." I double lunged the ram. He was going to go down. We just wanted to control "where" he went down. I jacked another shell in the chamber and let another bullet fly. This one dropped him in his tracks! BUT...he started tumbling down the canyon wall. The further he rolled, the further we had to pack him out. FINALLY!!...he stopped tumbling. High fives and a few shouts were then shared!

We stood up and admired the ram laying in the crevice some 400 yards below us. Now we had another predicament. How do we get to it. We shot from the edge of a small cliff. There was no direct way down. We had to circle around do down a much easier and safer route. Our pace was as quick as we could safely go. Both of us were excited to get our hands on this nice ram. It only took 20 minutes to cover the distance. Once there, we peeked over the edge and

we couldn't see the ram. It had actually rolled further down in the crevice than we have thought. It was to be quite a challenge to get it out of there, but we found it! I have my ram! A damn nice ram!!

I looked at my watch and said to Mike, "We only have about 5 hours before it's dark." "Let's get pictures taken and get out of here!" Taking pictures was a challenge because we didn't want the sheep to roll further down the hill. Once pictures were complete, the real work began. Next task was a full body cape. Again...on the side of a steep hill, this proved to be quite a challenge. We quartered and de-boned the carcass. Finally, we loaded up all the meat, the skull, and the full body cape in our two backpacks. It was a good thing we decided to travel light on this day!

We went down, then skirted the ridge. We climbed. We rested. We climbed. We rested some more. There is no oxygen at 11,000 feet above sea level. I was trying to remember if my life insurance was up to date. I knew if I tapped out, I'd never hear the end of it from this former student of mine that was with me. I HAD to keep going! I kept telling myself, "You've done harder things!" (of course I was much younger) "You can do this!"

Now we were faced with another dilemma. We were out of light. We had headlamps, but for our own safety, there was no way we could get back to our base camp. We still had just under two miles

to travel, but the smart call was to spend the night on the ridge and finish our tremendously difficult journey in the morning with the help of the sun. That night, the temperature dropped into the upper 20's. For Wyoming, that's not all that cold. The problem was that we were both moist from sweat from the climb out of the canyon. We searched the top of the ridge for anything that would burn. There were shrubs, but nothing big. Nevertheless, it would burn! I had a 55 gallon trash bag in my pack and Mike had one of those small silver survival blankets. I made myself small in that trash bag and Mike wrapped himself up in the survival blanket. We were cold and miserable for seven hours, but we survived! Now the final trek to base camp.

When it was light enough to see, we were loaded up and walking. We were both really cold and knew that moving would warm us up. We were both sore and tired from the hard climb(s) the day before and the lack of sleep, but we were headed back to camp...SUCCESSFUL!

Just when we didn't think we could take another step, we cleared the final ridge. There below us was our base camp. We were home. It was noon. We had been out for close to 30 hours. We stumbled into camp, took our packs off, and collapsed on our sleeping bags.





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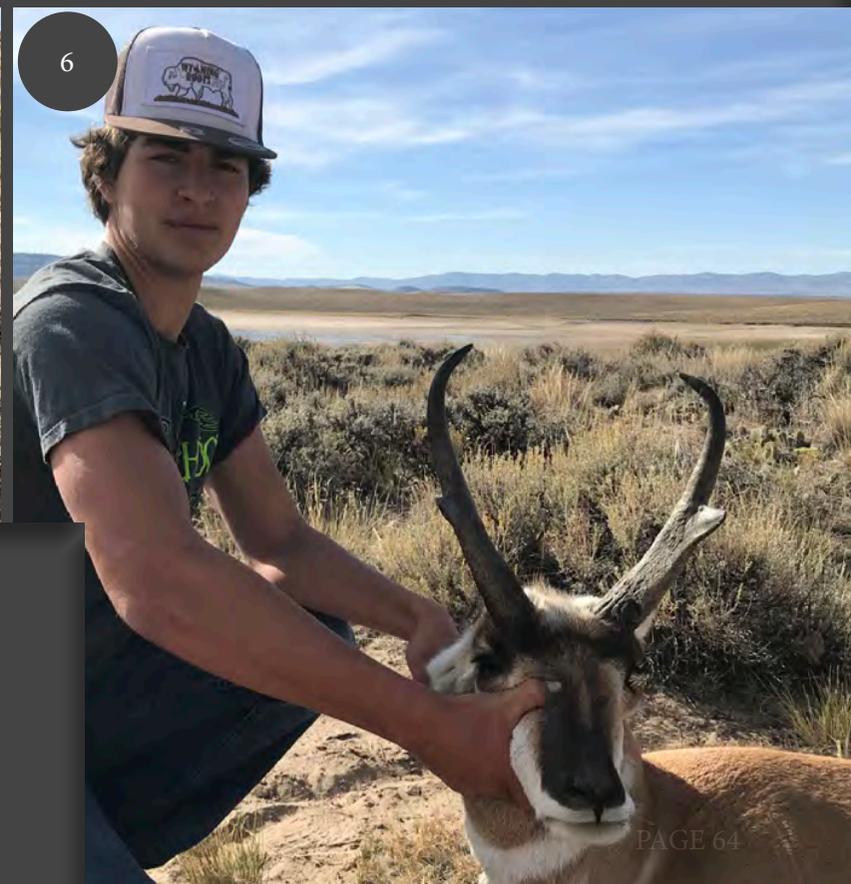
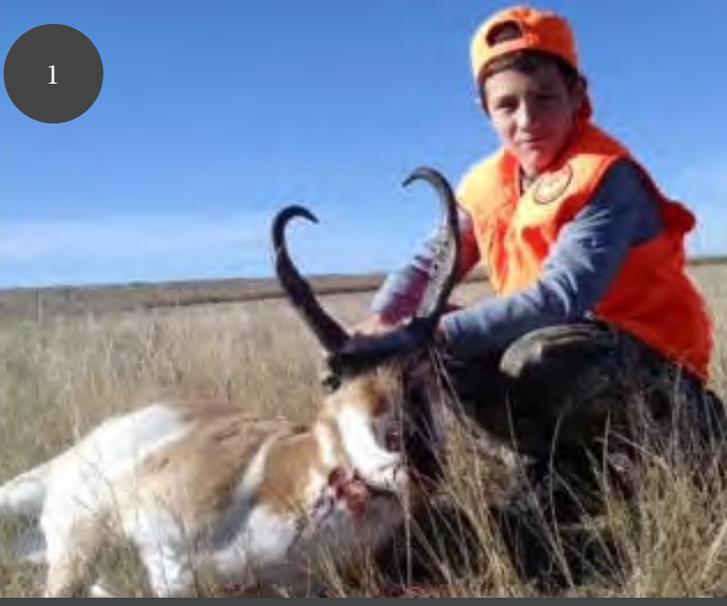
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### Youth Photo Captions

1. Kaed Coates
2. Matthew Wakkuri
3. Guiliana McDermott
4. Chance Butler
5. Kiana Brunette
6. Keyton Brunette

# “26 Years in the Making”

By GayLynn Byrd and Steve Kilpatrick

GayLynn reflected on her harvest of a 2012 Wyoming bighorn ram in the fall 2017 Rampage. Now she has another story to tell, but first lets learn a little about GayLynn. She grew up on a ranch near Douglas, Wyoming. On that family ranch, purchased in 1939, she learned how to work hard, play hard and get dirty, including having a little cow shit on the boots and blue jeans. She was one of three sisters, and following her Dad's footsteps, she also took a liking to hunting and fishing.

GayLynn and her sisters first honed

A little later GayLynn met her soon to be husband, Bart. After college and marriage, they settled on the family's ranch and GayLynn had a little time to think about life's goals. Yep, the seed was still there and had started to grow. She kept filling out those forms for that coveted Wyoming bighorn, but like many of us, never got that fat envelope filled with maps and a sheep tag from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. Darn.

Bart wanted to start a family in 1992, but NO, “I'm going sheep hunting **first**”, was the reply from the

for one of her more vivid memories GayLynn replied, “I hate tundra”.

Both came home with nice rams. Bart promptly got his daughter in 1993! No sense in wasting any daylight. As the saying goes, “the apple doesn't fall far from the tree “. Their daughter is now an avid hunter. She is anxious to hunt wild sheep as soon as she completes law school and finds a little more time and cash.

Fast forward all the way to 1994. No sense wasting time – just get er done. GayLynn acquires a Stone



their shooting skills pursuing many a rabbit and prairie dog, which her Mother loved to hunt as well. Later, she graduated to the pursuit of mule deer and antelope on their ranch. Her Dad peaked her interest in wild sheep when he ventured off and brought home a Dall's and Stone sheep. He also engaged in some mountain goat hunts. The seed was planted. The thought grew as she went off to college for a degree in Agriculture Business.

32-year-old new wife. “And, I'm even considering a grand slam”, she added. Bart has a strong willed woman on his hands and I'm sure there was hesitation, but like all good husbands, Bart promptly booked a backpack Dall's sheep hunt in the NWT. Moreover, to illustrate his definitive commitment and dedication to his new wife, he booked the hunt for two! They hunted some 30 miles from the airstrip – a lake. When asked

sheep tag. Just how she acquires it is interesting. Again, Bart being the quintessential husband he is, books a Stone hunt for himself. However, he later couldn't help but take advantage of a good deal on some horses he “needed”. Well the checkbook would not accommodate him doing both. So, again being the amazing husband, he is, he presented his BC Stone hunt to his lovely wife. Smart guy!

GayLynn and her good friend from college, her personal photographer, spent 14 days in the BC backcountry enjoy some spectacular views and experienced some challenging weather. As any good Wyoming cowgirl/hunter would say, "We had a blast". She brought home her second ram.

Now we are in 1995, and the son is born. Again, no sense in lollygagging. GayLynn, "With two children in the house, our lives changed and there were no more sheep hunts, or children, until I drew a Wyoming Bighorn tag in 2012. Off I went to northwest Wyoming on a backpack hunt, and after climbing a few mountains, I came home with a nice dark caped ram! Great hunt, beautiful country, and NO bear problems.....but those mountains aren't getting any

their room. Bart, decides to check out the banquet/auction room. As he walks in the door he discovers the tag they came to bid on is being auctioned, NOW! With a raise of his arm, he bags the tag, takes it back to their room and presents it to GayLynn, who had been napping. (Was it a birthday present?) There some celebrating and a competitive backpack race lasting into the next day. That's' another story.

GayLynn and Bart are off to Texas in pursuit of her desert ram, a hunt make possible by her dad, Raymond, and Bart. GayLynn, "What a great hunt with the Texas Parks & Wildlife group. They are constantly conducting some type of management activity like trans locations, monitoring and radio collaring. While it was one of my easier hunts, and that's welcomed

made by Bart's brother, for many years and has now moved on to a compound bow, a Christmas present from Bart. She is also a current Wyoming Game and Fish Department Commissioner, a difficult position these days, which illustrates her commitment to Wyoming's wildlife resource. We are fortunate to have a person in that position whom has such passion and "boots on the ground" experience.

GayLynn sums up her 26-year-long Slam pursuit with, "It's been a great adventure. I've seen a lot of beautiful country, met many great people, challenged myself, and now have my Grand Slam!" Her memory bank must be filled with invaluable irreplaceable treasures.



shorter and I swore off backpacks!"

On to her 4th and final ram, taken 2018. Bart and GayLynn attended the 2018 "Sheep Show" in Reno. They have never been to the Sheep Show, but they understand there will be some desert sheep tags sold there during the banquets. They arrive in Reno, spend some time leisurely looking over the booth displays, visiting with folks, have supper and a few drinks and retire to

after 26 years, I was successful in harvesting a beautiful desert ram on Elephant Mountain in west Texas. It's very neat country and we saw lots of sheep!"

What does GayLynn have planned now, "Well, maybe fish a little more. The mountains are getting a little hard on the body. I will also continue archery hunting which I have done for the last 30 years." GayLynn archery hunted with homemade recurve bows,



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