

WINTER 2023



**IDAHO**  
WILD SHEEP  
*Foundation*



THE BIENNIAL JOURNAL FOR THE SHEEP ENTHUSIAST

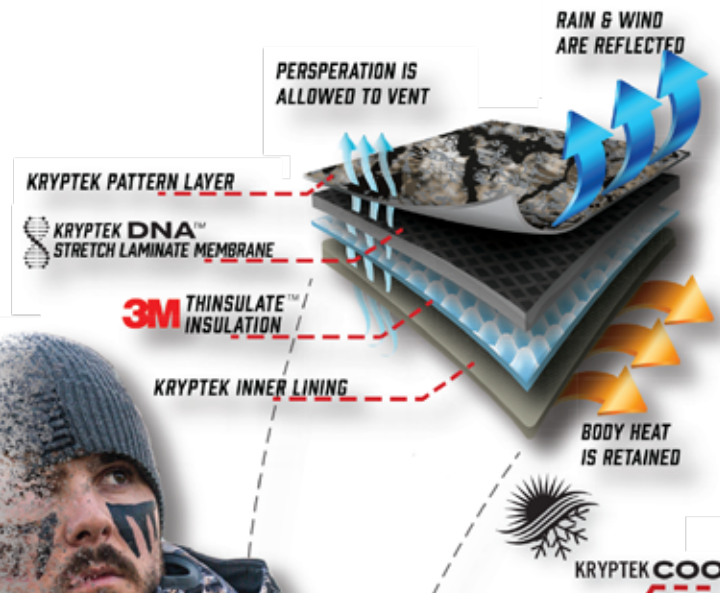




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 MOUNTAIN CARIBOU  
 WOLVES  
 BLACK BEAR



# THIS ISSUE

<b>Features</b>	1	ON THE COVER - MARK ROWLEY, JR.
	26	IDAHO'S GIANTS OF THE LOST PART 2 BY DAN YOUNG
	34	ALASKA MOOSE HUNT BY TYLER HALM
	40	ALASKA WILDERNESS BY BILL LONDON
	50	UNFINISHED BUSINESS BY ZACH HIGGINS
	60	HAPPY 30TH BIRTHDAY BY MICHAEL KEADY
	75	BIGHORN MANAGEMENT PLANS BY HOLLIE MIYASAKI
	89	UNDERSTANDING THE ROC BY BILL LONDON
	96	A RIDGE TOO FAR, ALMOST... BY MATT MONSON
	104	TO THE HELL HOLE AND BACK BY MARK ROWLEY, JR.
	112	A DALL FOR PAUL BY SCOT JENKINS
	124	PAMWE CHETE BY EDD WOSLUM
	135	FATHER DAUGHTER ADVENTURES BY SCOT JENKINS
<b>Inside Idaho WSF</b>	11	PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS BY JOSH MILLER
	15	2024 MEMBER PROMOTION RAFFLE
	19	39TH ANNUAL BANQUET & FUNDRAISER
	21	STONE SHEEP RAFFLE WITH TERMINUS MOUNTAIN OUTFITTERS
	23	DALL SHEEP RAFFLE WITH ALASKA GUIDE SERVICE
	45	2024 IDAHO BIGHORN LOTTERY TAG
	71	SUMMER SOCIAL AND IDAHO BIGHORN LOTTERY TAG DRAWING
	119	YOUTH CONSERVATION CAMP
	139	IDAHO WSF MERCHANDISE
	141	BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S NOMINATION FORM
	143	ENDOWMENT FUND
	147	MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL
	149	WANTED—MEMBER ARTICLES AND PICTURES
	152	MEMBER PICTURES
	155	CONSERVATION PARTNER'S





# Working to *Put and Keep* Wild Sheep on the Mountain since 1982

### MISSION

The mission of Idaho Wild Sheep is to enhance wild sheep populations in Idaho, and with partners in adjacent states, for public enjoyment, education, and fair chase hunting; to promote professional wildlife management, and protect sportsmen's rights.

### HISTORY

The Idaho Wild Sheep was founded in 1982 by two dozen concerned sportsmen who wanted to "put more bighorns on Idaho's mountains." From that core group, many of which are still very active on our board and committees, we have grown to a thriving organization with over 950 committed members.

### Idaho WSF Board Members

- Josh Miller, President
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- LOTTERY**  
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### WINTER 2023

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### CONTACT THE PUBLICATION

Contributing photos, articles, stories and research pertaining to wild sheep or the interests of members of the Idaho WSF are always welcome. Contributed material will be published at the committees discretion.

All membership's include a subscription.



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## PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

It's that time of year that we are all thinking about and planning for months or even years in advance, Hunting Season. It has been great seeing all the successful sheep hunters in Idaho as well as pictures of our members having success on other hunts around the state and world. Several of our members who volunteered on a project this past year drew tags and harvested some great rams. I think that shows good conservation karma can come back in the ways of a tag! I was able to help one of my friends/members who had volunteered on the Jim Sage project with his Frank Church sheep hunt and helped him find a nice mature ram. It doesn't get any better than spending time in sheep country with friends and family. Seeing the effects of work done on the ground by those that came before us gives us a goal to continue and improve our legacy to this species which has left us all with an incurable sickness.

Hunting and the North American Model of Conservation has shown to be the most successful model for wildlife conservation and is evident in the successes we see every year in Idaho and around the world in places using hunting as the tool for species conservation. Conservation is at the heart of our organization, our board members, and all 937 of our members. 937 members, that number is incredible when you think that 10 years ago, we were just over 250 members and 5 years ago we were at 425 members. Help us break the one thousand mark this year by telling your friends/family about our organization. We have our membership driving going on with three different hunt options for the winner to choose from, NWT Musk Ox, Mexico Mule Deer, or British Columbia Mountain Goat. Thank

you to Gary Adams with Canadian High Arctic Adventures, Hugo Loera with HR Big Game Outfitter, and Blake Williams with Golden Bear Outfitting for working with us on these awesome hunts and huge thank you to Teton Toyota, Peterson Chrysler, Western Rock, Perfection Tire, and Wes Curry for sponsoring the membership drive.

We are excited to announce that Idaho was yet again the recipient of 2 GIA Grants (ION and Tri-State) from Wild Sheep Foundation to continue the work we have been doing the last couple years. The video we released at the 2023 banquet Titled "Going Big" was fitting for the level of effort being put in by the Idaho Fish and Game and the wild sheep community. This coming year Idaho looks to be going even BIGGER! Between the Idaho Dept of Fish and Game, IDWSF, WSF, and Midwest WSF Chapter this year \$900,000 is being committed to conservation projects here in Idaho! The Department has some great plans in store to continue the work already started, expand to new areas, and even complete an aerial survey in the Middle Fork which has not been done in quite some time. You are all a part of this with your volunteer time, contributions through memberships, banquet purchases, raffle tickets, lottery tickets, or IDWSF merchandise. We cannot thank you enough for your support and humbly ask





*President's Message continued*

again for your support as we begin planning the 2024 banquet. This coming Banquet will hopefully exceed your expectations as we plan for bigger and better games, raffles, silent, live auctions. We are excited to announce we will be giving a life member, registered and present in the room, a desert sheep hunt with Rancho La Guarida. We are also about to release two more sheep hunt raffles. A Dall Sheep with Alaska Guide Service and a Stone Sheep with Terminus Mountain Outfitters.

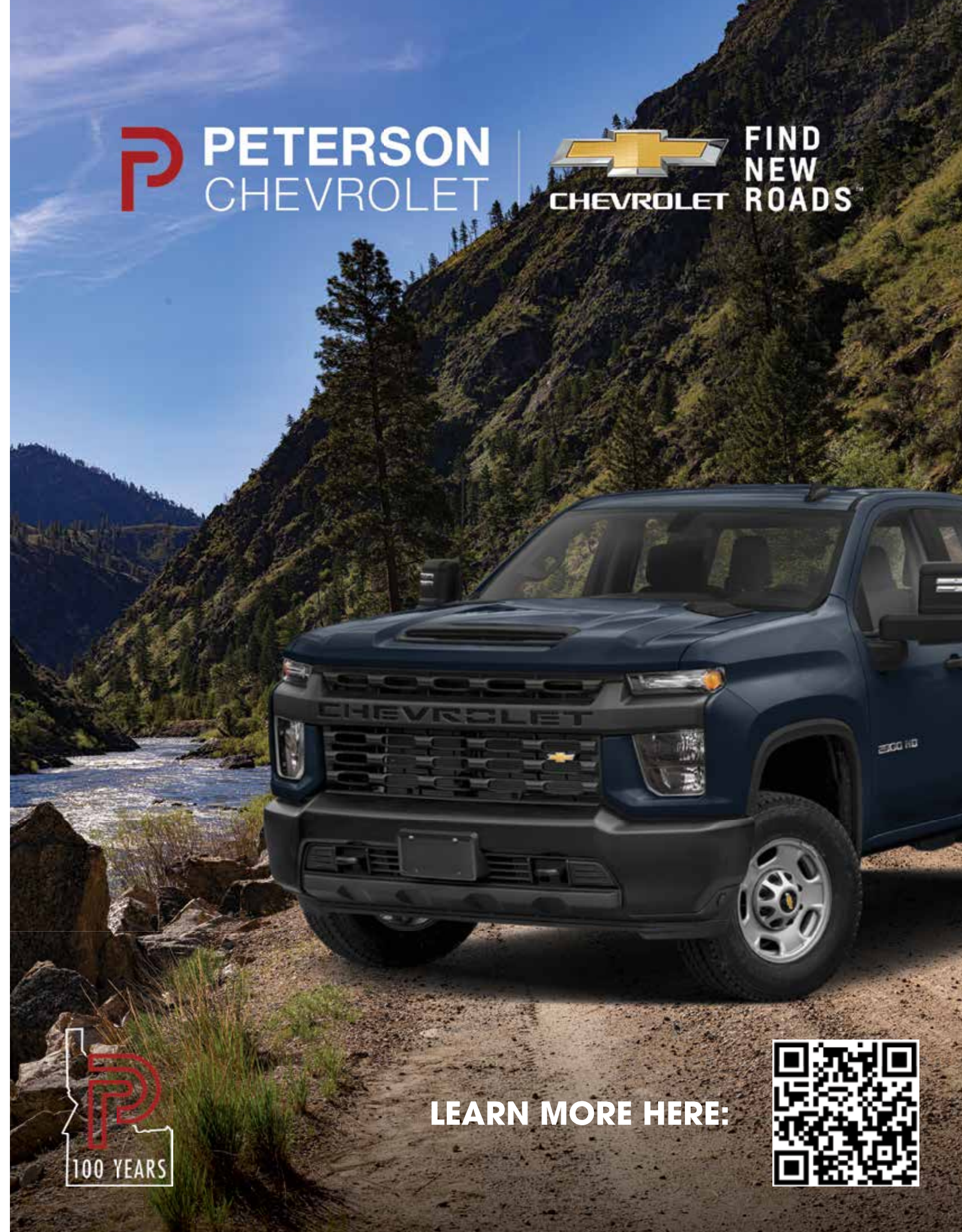
We are also looking forward to providing our members with volunteer opportunities in the coming months to assist on capture/collaring projects around Idaho again. As someone who has hunted sheep, participated in lamb surveys, and assisted in a collaring project, I can honestly say getting to put your hands on a live sheep is an emotional experience you will never forget. I hope some of you that have not had that chance will get that chance.

I hope this message finds you and your family enjoying the holiday season. I look forward to seeing

many of you at the Reno Sheep Show, Salt Lake City Western Hunt Expo, and at our Boise Banquet.



Josh Miller  
President  
Idaho Wild Sheep Foundation



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MEMBER PROMOTION RAFFLE

# WINNER'S CHOICE OF HUNT



## 6-DAY NORTHWEST TERRITORIES MUSK OX HUNT

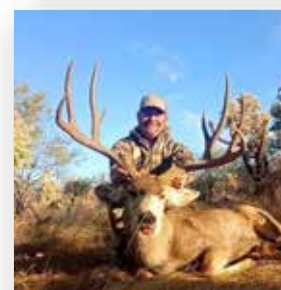
Fall hunt August/September 2024  
or, Spring hunt March/April 2025  
To be finalized with outfitter.



OR

## 12-DAY BRITISH COLUMBIA MTN GOAT HUNT

August 25– September 5, 2025  
Other dates may be available.  
Date to be finalized with outfitter.



OR

## 8-DAY SONORA MEXICO MULE DEER HUNT

January 23-30, 2025  
Dates to be finalized with outfitter.



- ➔ \$ 75 New/Renewing Annual Membership *includes 1 raffle ticket.*
- ➔ \$1,000 New LIFE Membership *includes 2 raffle tickets* and a Life member vest. Payment plan available for \$87.50 per month for 12 months.
- ➔ \$1,000 Current LIFE upgrade to CENTENNIAL membership *includes 2 raffle tickets* and a Centennial member jacket. Payment plan available for \$87.50 per month for 12 months.
- ➔ \$2,000 New CENTENNIAL Membership *includes 4 raffle tickets* and a Centennial member jacket. Payment plan available for \$170 per month for 12 months.
- ➔ \$ 50 **Additional tickets** may be purchased by MEMBERS ONLY. This includes all (new or renewing) 2024 members and, **EXISTING 3-year, Life and Centennial members.**



All ticket sales are final. Hunt may not be re-sold. Do not need to be present to win. Drawing will be held February 18, 2024 at 2:00 PM MT. Winner will be called and posted to our website immediately following the drawing. The winner is required to claim prize and choose hunt no later than 2:00 PM MT on February 26, 2024 or, hunt will be forfeited. [www.idahowildsheep.org](https://www.idahowildsheep.org)

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39th  
Annual



## Banquet & Fundraiser

# Registration is OPEN

## MARCH 16, 2024

## Boise, Idaho

**LIFE and CENTENNIAL members TAKE NOTE:** Banquet registration will sell out. Register now to save your spot and a chance to win a **10-DAY TROPHY FREE RANGE DESERT SHEEP HUNT** with Rancho La Guarida AND a **LIFE SIZE MOUNT WITH BRUSH COUNTRY STUDIOS**. REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN.

**NEW—Pre-purchase game ticket voucher's and skip the line at banquet.**

### DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>

Registration opens for Members.

### DECEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>

Registration opens to the public.

### NEW

Early bird rates apply until

JANUARY 20<sup>TH</sup>.

Late fees will apply on FEBRUARY 21<sup>ST</sup>,  
if space is available.



Register online at  
[www.idahowildsheep.org](http://www.idahowildsheep.org)  
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DESERT SHEEP DRAWING

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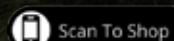
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**2024**



**10-DAY FREE RANGE  
TROPHY DESERT  
SHEEP HUNT**



**LIFE  
MEMBER  
RAFFLE**



**ALL Idaho Wild Sheep Foundation LIFE and CENTENNIAL members** will be entered into this drawing. **No purchase necessary but, YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN.**

Winner will be drawn at the 39th Annual Idaho Wild Sheep Banquet and Fundraiser on March 16, 2024 at the Boise Centre in Boise, Idaho. **Banquet registration is required. Registration will open for Life and Centennial members in December.**

Life members will receive one entry and Centennial members will receive three entries. Life and Centennial memberships can be purchased now through the banquet. Current Life members can upgrade to a Centennial membership. Payment plans available.

**Hunt date: November-March 2024-2025 to be finalized with outfitter.**

Included: Accommodations, licenses, trophy fees and transportation during hunt.

Not included: Pre and post hunt travel, accommodations before and after hunt, tips.

\*Hunt may only be transferred to a Life member present at the drawing, during the banquet on 3/16/24.

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**14-DAY GUIDED BRITISH COLUMBIA STONE SHEEP HUNT**

**Hunt dates: August 10-23, 2025**

**Included:** Detailed manual for hunter preparation; transportation within hunting area; guiding services; camp staff, meals and lodging while in hunting concession; trophy (horns, skulls and hide) care and preparation.

**Not included:** Air charter fees of \$3,200 each; hunter pres. fund, licenses and tag fee \$1,150; tips/gratuities for guides and other staff associated with your hunt (5-10% of hunt cost); crate and freight charges for shipping trophies to country of final destination; applicable taxes; optional trip cancellation insurance and medical evacuation; additional flights needed to take out extra meat, hotels in Fort Nelson, B.C.; additional/nonscheduled charter flight costs. Hotels to and from Fort Nelson B.C.

Rules: Do not need to be present to win. Winner will be drawn on March 16, 2024. All ticket sales are final. Hunt may not be re-sold. Transferrable to first degree kinship only. See complete rules and purchase online at [www.idahowildsheep.org](http://www.idahowildsheep.org) or, scan the code.





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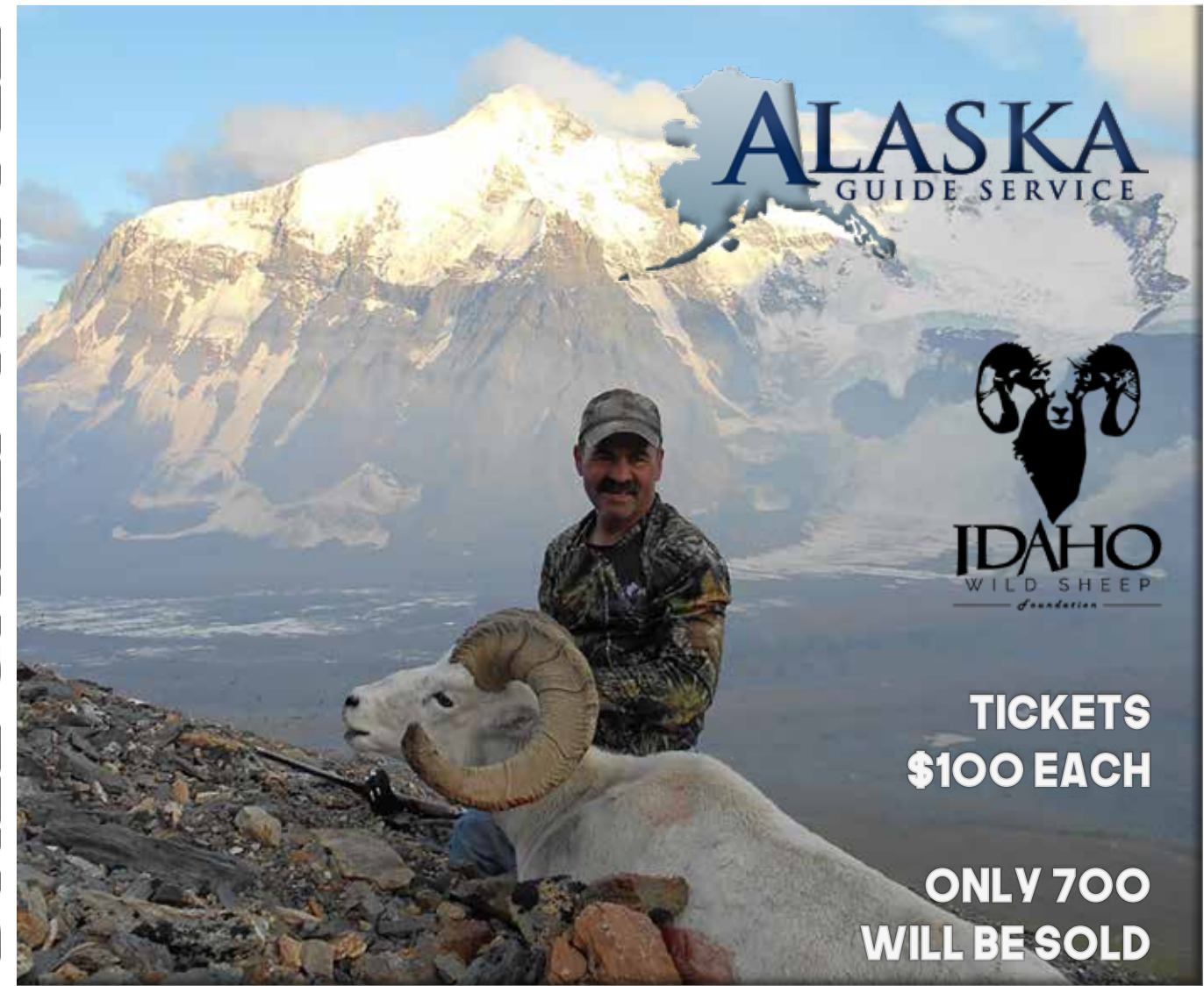
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# DALL SHEEP RAFFLE



## 10-DAY GUIDED ALASKA DALL SHEEP HUNT

Hunt dates: August 8-18, 2024

**Included:** Food, lodging, trophy care, and handling of game meat as well as any transportation deemed necessary by the guide is the responsibility of Alaska Guide Service and included in the hunt. First and last days of hunts are travel days into and out of camps. Transportation costs and arrangements between the hunting area and city of Fairbanks, Alaska on these days is the responsibility of the guide outfitter and are included in the hunt as well as all land use fees.

**Not included:** Pre and post hunt travel to Fairbanks including accommodations. Tags, licenses, taxes and tips.

Must be eligible to hunt and fish in Alaska.

Rules: Do not need to be present to win. Winner will be drawn on March 16, 2024. All ticket sales are final. Hunt may not be re-sold. Transferrable to first degree kinship only. See complete rules and purchase online at [www.idahowildsheep.org](http://www.idahowildsheep.org) or, scan the code.



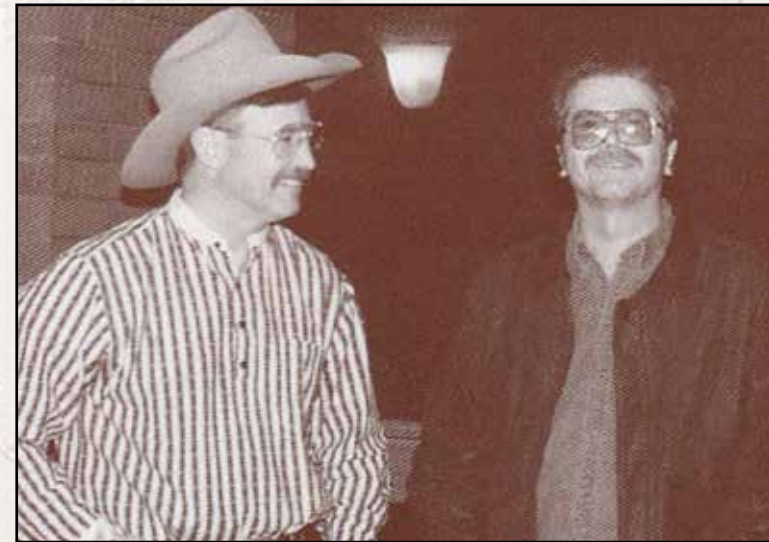


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- Andy Thacker
- Jerry Thiessen
- Fred Wood
- Barry Wood
- Jerry Young

HISTORY BOOKS



1993

George Law and Gary Pals enjoying the 1996 banquet.



2013

Idaho Wild Sheep Foundation Booth WSF Sheep Show in Reno



2014 Summer Newsletter  
Fred Waymire

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IDAHO'S

# GIANTS

OF THE

# LOST

PART 2

BY DAN YOUNG

I'm a hunter. A normal year will find me in the field packing a firearm 50 to 60 days. Like many, I hunt for the meat but ultimately, it's the experience I treasure most. I often hunt chukars with my dog, River, in the steep slopes around Riggins or in the rugged terrain of the Owyhee mountains. I've been blessed with much success over the years hunting deer, elk, mountain lion, and other animals that call Idaho and Wyoming home but never really put much thought into hunting bighorns. That all changed this spring when I put in and drew a coveted bighorn ram tag in arguably one of the best units of the state.

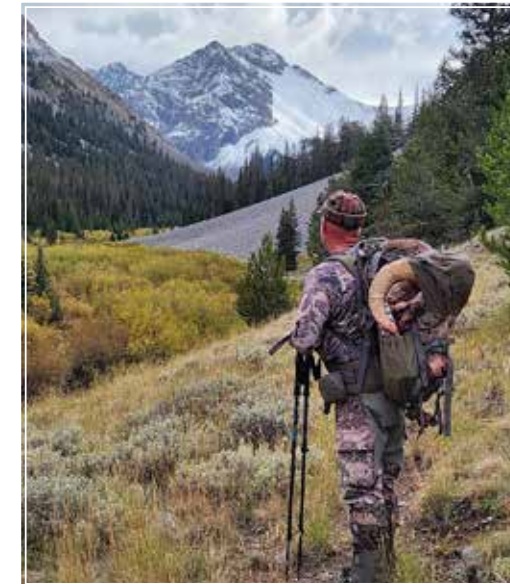
It all began when a good friend of mine, Clint Barg, drew this exact same tag the previous year and took a very respectable ram. The pictures, story, and experience he shared (Idaho's Giants of the Lost, Winter 2022), along with his persistence, drove me to put in for this hunt. He simply wouldn't shut up about it. I finally gave in on the last available day and put in for the draw knowing full well the odds of drawing were stacked against me.

A month or so later, the results were out. I was sitting at the campfire on a bear hunting trip with some good friends, saw that I had cell service, and decided to check to see if I drew. I literally couldn't believe my eyes and called my buddies over to sanity check. I was successful! What began as a slim to none chance suddenly became a reality. I would be hunting bighorns this fall. A species I knew little about in country I knew even less about. That's when I texted Clint with the news and asked if he'd be interested in helping me. I wanted him in my hip pocket on this hunt. His response was immediate – he was in.

As I shared the news of my successful draw with friends and family, several of them asked if they could accompany me. While I wanted all of them

to join, I knew I had to whittle the list down and ended up with a solid crew of six to help me scout and join me on the hunt. Aaron Woods, Braden Binder, Shawn Gordon, Eric Norton, Clint Barg, and my nephew, Hunter. A solid group of guys that were not only dedicated but also competent hunters themselves. I was humbled by the amount of support I received.

My first trip into these rugged mountains occurred over the July 4th weekend with Aaron, Clint, his boys, Cian and Tucker, and their friend, Rebecca. We backpacked in a few miles from the trailhead, gaining a lot of elevation. There were still big pockets of snow up high and the lakes we hiked into were still half covered in ice. We didn't see any bighorns on this trip but it gave me a solid understanding of the terrain I'd be hunting in a little over two months. It was the first time I hiked over 11k feet.



Unfortunately, work, time constraints, and an untimely injury kept me away throughout most of the summer. I had a torn meniscus in my right knee that hindered my ability to walk, let alone, scout, but with help from modern medicine and consistent physical therapy, I was able to get back into acceptable shape for the hunt. Clint continued to scout when he could, finding rams but was never able to find anything that merited an opening day plan. A few

weeks before the opener, I finally had an opportunity to return to the original area we scouted in July. Aaron, Eric, Braden, Hunter, and Clint joined me. Clint decided to scout a few drainages away and collectively, we saw over 40 rams in 36 hours. A few of them were potential shooters. To say I was excited is an understatement – I was completely fired up and couldn't wait for opening day!

During the months leading up to this hunt, I kept thinking I wanted a 180-class ram. I mean, this is





WHAT BEGAN AS A SLIM TO NONE CHANCE  
SUDDENLY BECAME A REALITY.

a once in a lifetime opportunity and I wanted to make the most of it but I also had this internal struggle. Was this a reasonable goal given the condition of my knee? My nephew, Hunter, an experienced guide, finally helped me put things into perspective. "Finding a 180-class ram is like finding a 200-inch buck – they don't grow on trees."

On a Monday, three days before the opener, we decided to return to the trailhead to hopefully secure the campsite at the base of this ram infested area. Luck was on our side – it was vacant. When we pulled into where base camp would be, it was raining. Hard. We decided to wait for a break in the weather before setting up base camp. Two wall tents, courtesy of Hunter and Braden – one for cooking, one for sleeping. It was a fine setup that we would all appreciate in the days ahead.

Over the next two days, we broke up into separate groups and scouted hard but only saw nine rams. A far cry from what we saw two weeks earlier. Fortunately, a couple of them were solid candidates for a possible stalk on opening day. Clint had spotted two mature rams in a couloir about two miles up the basin we were camped in two days earlier. Hunter, Braden, and Eric also spotted them a day later. Initially, we all wanted to spike camp out closer to the action the night before but the weather forecast changed our minds. Turns out, we made the right call staying at base camp. At 3 am, it began to not only rain, but pour and by 6 am, the rain had turned to snow. We awoke to wet, foggy conditions with extremely poor visibility and we all knew we were stuck at base camp until conditions improved. At 10 am, mother nature finally decided to play nice – conditions were improving. It was game time.

We collectively decided to hike up into the basin to get another look at these two rams. It was noon when we came through a strip of timber below the couloir that had been their home for the past two days. We quickly setup our spotters and within minutes, they were spotted. Both were mature rams, one darker than the other. At this point, I wasn't quite sure if I wanted to put a stalk on. I leaned towards Clint asking him what he thought. He responded with "Well, we're hunting rams and those are respectable rams." That's all I needed to hear. I decided to go for it. With six of us in the group, I wanted to cut the

group in half for the stalk. Clint was definitely joining me as he knew the country and had the experience. I also wanted Hunter along. He shot his first buck and first chukar with me plus has eyes like a hawk. I really wanted to share this experience with him. After an hour-long stalk, we were finally in position to take a lateral shot from a timbered point to the east. Both rams were feeding up the couloir and I decided to go for the darker ram. Hunter ranged him at 400 yds.

I normally don't get too excited but this hunt was different. This is a heavy tag to pack around and I didn't want to blow it especially in front of an audience. I decided to lay down in a prone position, using my pack as a rest and soon located the ram I wanted. My position felt a little awkward but I knew it was time to execute as the ram appeared to have spotted us. Boom – shot high! Both rams jumped then headed up the slope. The darker ram stopped again for another shot. Boom – missed again! At this point, they tried to make their escape up a steep gully out of sight, behind a cliff band. I was shaking like a leaf and knew I needed a better rest. A dead alpine log close by fit the bill. The rams were still about 400 yards out when we lost them so we decided to wait to see if they would resurface. A few minutes passed and luckily, both of them appeared above a higher cliff band above our position with the darker ram in the lead. Hunter ranged him at 440 yds. Clint said, "That's a good poke uphill" but I felt solid and replied with "I got him." Boom – this time the shot hit home and the ram dropped out of sight. Not entirely sure how well he was hit, we were contemplating on what to do. Right about then, the ram came tumbling down off the higher cliff band, then rolled off another into the scree field below. It was quite the spectacle to see him crashing down the mountain, each of us wincing as we heard his horns bang and clatter against the rock. Once he landed in the scree, he rolled another 200 yards, finally coming to a stop about 300 yds above the bottom of the basin. Ram down! As we celebrated with hugs and high fives, I finally started to settle down. As we made our way to the ram, Eric, Shawn, and Braden were on their way up to us. Everybody came a running to help,





and of course, take tons of pictures.

Turns out, Clint had taken his ram about 600 yds from where mine now laid. This spectacular mountain had delivered two years in a row. Idaho's Giants of the Lost – Part 2 was in the books. I can't thank this crew enough for all their support, camaraderie, and dedication to help me on this high-country adventure. The hunting Gods had blessed us all.



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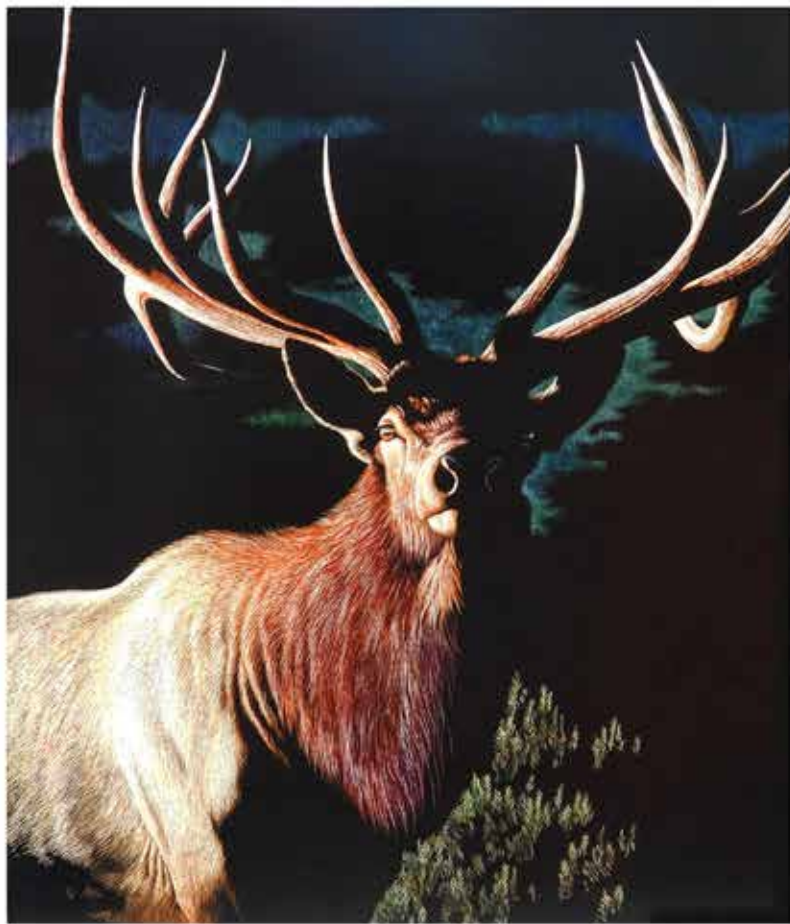
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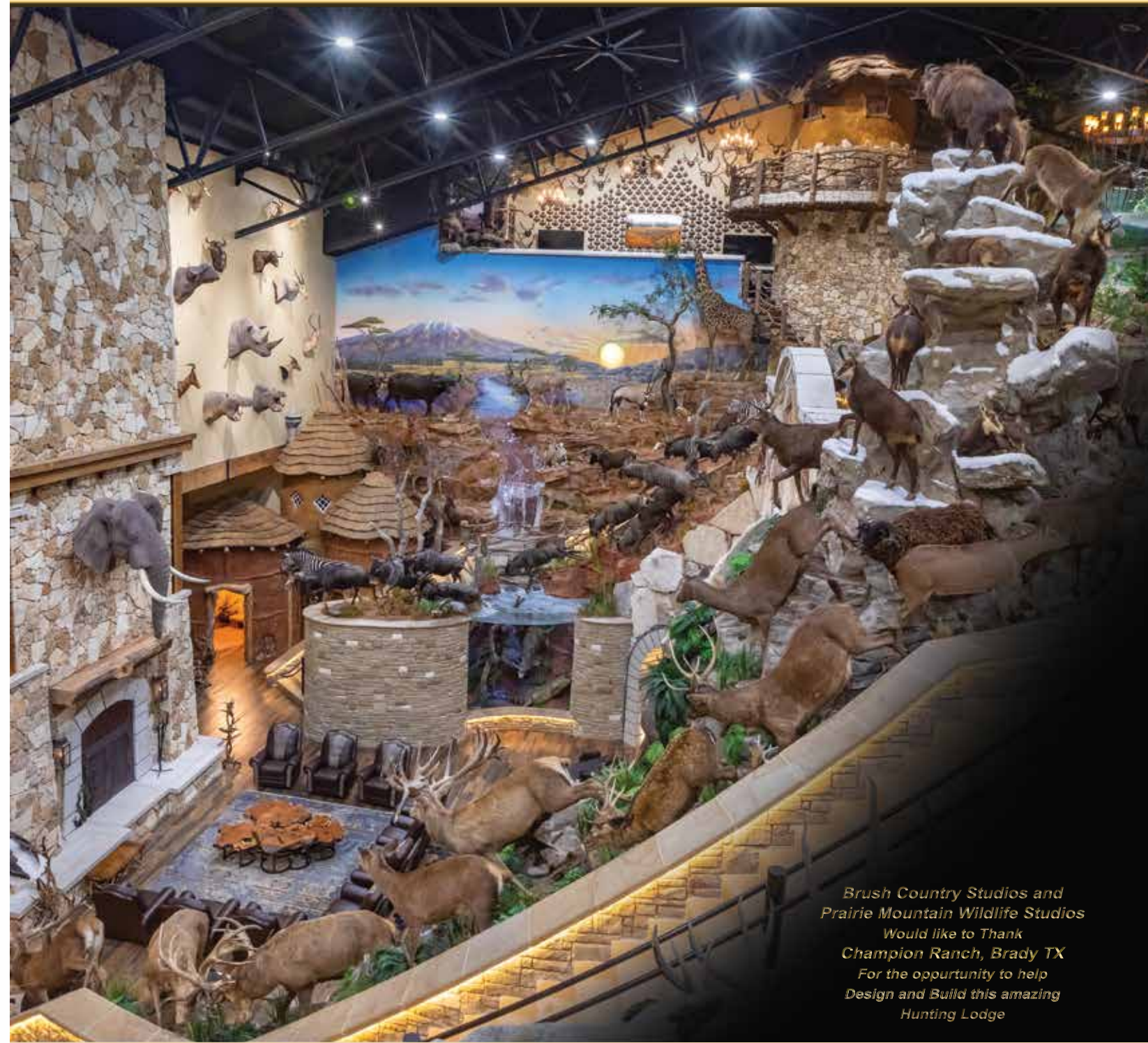


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# DO-IT-YOURSELF ALASKA MOOSE HUNT

BY TYLER HALM (AS TOLD TO BILL LONDON)

**M**y hunting buddy Rob Yule and I decided it was time for another Alaskan moose hunt. A few years ago, we both killed bulls on a Do It Yourself drop camp with Papa Bear Adventures. This year Jason Mack would come along too. It would be Jason's debut to both Alaska and to moose hunting. Ever the sportsman, Jason really wanted to kill his moose with a bow. All three of us are Store Leaders for Scheels sporting goods stores. We each started our careers over twenty years ago and now are leading the stores in Fargo, Omaha, and the soon-to-open Meridian Idaho store.

We enjoy the challenges and fulfillment of a DIY hunt; the level of success is up to us...and luck. We chose to hunt out of Bethel for two reasons. First, the area seems to have a tremendously high moose density and there aren't antler restrictions. This relieves us of the pressure of trying to judge if a bull's antler spread is wide enough or if he has enough brow tines. If it looks good to us, we could take him. Second, we wanted to stay with Papa Bear Adventures because they do a great job of coordinating the flight logistics, meat transportation and hunting location. The hunt timing is simple, pre-rut when the bulls are wandering looking for lonely cows.

We flew Alaska Airlines to Bethel and were soon meeting Justin Essian, owner of Papa Bear at his lodge. Justin reviewed maps with us of possible hunting locations, each of which had been scouted prior to the season. The plan had been to spend the night and fly out the next morning, but the skies were clear, so Justin was able to fly us out to our drop camp that afternoon. Luckily, we had prepacked our camp gear into "field bags, (maximum 100 pounds each). So, we left our 'town' bags, grabbed our 'field' bags, and climbed into a DHC-2 Beaver.

An hour later the Beaver landed on the remote lake that we'd be hunting from, and there was nobody else for miles in any direction. After finding a dry spot near the lake,

we set up a simple camp; three personal tents and a teepee for a community area and cooking. All our hunting would take place within a quarter mile of here, so noise and smells were kept to a minimum.

Unable to hunt on a 'fly day', the first priorities were to establish a glassing spot and a raking/calling spot about 100 yards from camp. The glassing spot should have a good view to the upwind of camp. "Raking" is simply using a wooden canoe paddle to scrap trees and willows to replicate a bull moose racking his antlers on the brush. Later we found some shed moose antlers and we used those too. The calling was limited to a couple mournful cow calls and a few bull grunts.

Glassing is a challenge in relatively flat ground with tall willows, so we lashed two trees together with parachute cord and were able to make an elevated glassing position. The extra 5 feet of height greatly improved visibility. After some raking and calling we went to bed full of anticipation. It was decided that Jason, being the newbie, would get first chance at a bull.

Day 2, finally we get to hunt! Predawn we quietly torched up the Jetboils and had a freeze-dried breakfast. Each of us had a role, glasser, raker, shooter. At sunrise Jason was on the glass and immediately spotted two bull moose, Bulls A & B. We watched them until about 11am when they bedded down. The three of us returned to camp for lunch and were back in the field by 1pm. Around 2pm Jason spots two bulls about 250 yards away and decides to try for Bull B with his bow. I went with Jason with a rifle for backup while Rob stayed back to call and rake. A 10-mph wind was sideways to the stalk, perfect for scent control and to mask our movements.

When we're 40 yards from Bull B, I spot another larger bull (Bull C), at 100 yards.

Using hand signals, we discuss options; Jason is focused on Bull B who is slowly feeding our way. As we sneak closer two more bulls come into view, Bulls D and E! Bull D is bigger than Bull B, so Jason turns his attention there. We have four bull moose within 60 yards of us. They don't know we're there and two of them are sparring!

Moving alone Jason hooks to the left to stay downwind of Bull D as Rob meets up with me to watch. Jason stalked forward towards the bull, when it walked out of the brush at 20 yards Jason was waiting. Jason poised and confident, made a perfect shot. The bull ran 50 yards, turned, and then ran straight at Rob and I before falling over dead. Silent celebration and quiet High-fives, the other bulls were still there and the two were still sparring. It was amazing. Then "amazing" happened, a sixth bull arrived, even bigger than the rest and with velvet hanging off his antlers. Rob offered this bull to me, but I reminded him that on the last hunt I had first shot. This bull is his.





Rob raised the rifle, aimed at the bull, then lowered the rifle. He turned to me and asked, "Do we really want two bulls down at once?" "Yes, we do!" I replied while ranging the bull at 60 yards. Rob dropped the bull with his .300 Win mag. We had two bulls down within 15 yards of each other and a half mile from camp. Then the work started, even with the three of us it took from 5 pm to 1 am to cut up the bulls and get them into game bags. Knowing that the Bethel locals appreciate the tongue, heart and rib-meat on the bone we brought those out too.

Day 3, Packing meat. We spent the entire next day getting the meat back to the lake for pickup and taking care of the heads. The pack out wasn't too bad as we spread the work over three guys. Seven trips per moose, six meat - one head, at 75 - 125 pounds each. The meat bags were laid over will branches to keep them off the ground and to let the air circulate around them. It always surprises me how long and tedious the process of caping and cleaning up the skulls is.



to keep eyes on the area we'd had success in. These were really the only two locations that allowed us to see more than 50 yards. We'd be to our selected locations before light and then regroup back at camp late in the morning before heading back to our spots for the evening. During this time, we saw a couple of small bulls and cows, but no shooters. There was a black bear on the moose carcasses.

When hunting moose, effort does not always equal success. You're not charging up mountains, patience lets the moose come to you. If you disperse too far you'll disturb the area. We were now moving 500 - 600 yards from camp to glass and rake.

Day 8. The morning found us back in our glassing spots. As the sun was coming up a pair of bulls could be heard in the distance sparring, excitement was high. I was glassing near the lake, where there was better visibility when a cow moose wandered into the open at 350 yards. I was just wishing a bull would walk out behind her, when sure



Papa Bear flew in that afternoon to pick up our meat and take it back to their cooler in Bethel. The most challenging part of the meat packing was from its shoreside staging area across twenty yards of waist deep swampy lake to the airplane's pontoon. We waded to the airplane, then lifted the game bags up to the pontoon. After the hunt, our gamebags were organized in the cooler with labels, making the process of getting the meat home very easy. Papa Bear arranges meat to be flown out of camp during your hunt and will either store it in their walk-in cooler or donate it to residents of the local community, or both. Each hunter fills out color coded laminated labels with the hunter's name, the cut of meat, and whether it is to be kept or donated.

Days 4-7, everything slowed down, the bulls weren't moving much. We spent the majority of the time split up

enough one did. He wasn't huge, but he was pretty decent. The rain quit, the sun came out, and he kept walking along the lake shore, closer and closer. At 100 yards he offered a clear shot and only 15 yards from the lakeshore. My Christensen 300PRC rifle dropped him cleanly. We were 3-for-3 on bull moose!

We rafted over to the bull and started cutting him up. With plenty of recent practice we had him bagged up and hung by midnight.

Day 9. Wanting to avoid the swamp walk while hauling meat routine, we rafted my meat bags to an old beaver lodge on our side of the lake. The lodge that extended into the lake to act like a loading pier. Late morning one of Papa Bear's planes arrived to take the meat and soon after the other arrived to fly us back to Bethel...and a shower.



Rob, Tyler and Jason



Jason



Rob

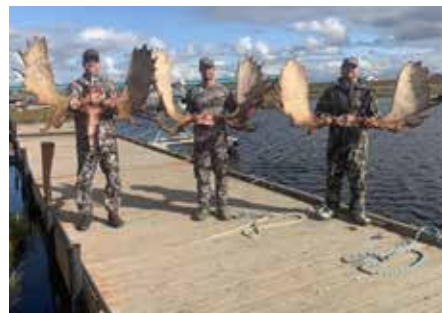




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# ALASKA

# FISHING







# ALASKA WILDERNESS

## KWETHLUK AND KISARALIK RIVERS



Kurt & Ben



Ben



Steve



Small track inside large track



Bill

### BY: BILL LONDON

It had always been on my Bucket List, to raft through the Alaskan wilderness. Just fly fishing for salmon and enjoying true solitude. Like marathons, the hard part is committing to do it. The rest is just follow-through. I needed to find companions who were comfortable being flown into a remote lake and being told that they would be picked up 10 days later on a gravel bar 100 miles away. Oh yeah, and you might not see anyone else the entire time.

In 2021 my brother Mark and I teamed up with the Hogander brothers, Geoff, and Ted, to make it a reality. Relying on a friend's recommendation, we chose to fly in and be outfitted by Papa Bear Adventures of Bethel Alaska. Papa Bear arranges the bush flight in and jet boat rides out at the end of your float. They provide gear lists, fishing

information, and a current river description with river mileage. They also rent the necessary gear for these trips. You can use your own gear, theirs, or a mix of the two. We decided on the Kwethluk River in late August for the end of the sockeye run and the beginning of the silver salmon run. The Kwethluk is a small, fly-fishing friendly river that's also known for its arctic grayling fishing.

The next thing I know I'm sitting in one of Papa Bear's planes flying over the Alaskan tundra. I mentioned my excitement about fishing grayling. The pilot told me that there would be so many grayling that we would get tired of catching them and would swear when casting to a rainbow trout and yet another grayling took our fly.

Soon Papa Bear's plane was leaving us on Boundary Lake. We are alone...and it's beautiful. We loaded our guns and strapped on bear spray, then carried all our gear 150 yards over an embankment to the Kwethluk river. The Kwethluk is not a technical river, there are no rapids. The primary hazards are "sweepers" and snags in the river.

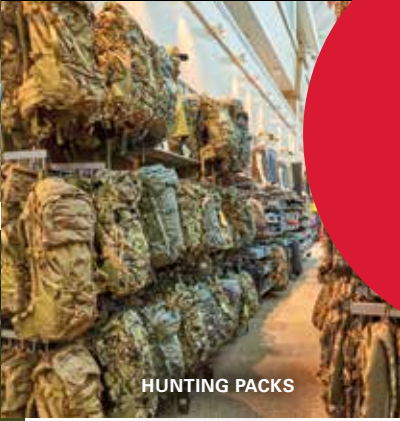
We had planned on only camping on gravel bars that didn't have grizzly bear tracks, but quickly realized that there weren't any. So, we camped where the tracks weren't super fresh, most importantly we kept really clean camps. In the upper river we caught grayling, rainbow trout, arctic char and sockeye salmon. We saw grizzly bears but had no problems with them. Halfway down the river the silver salmon started to show up and the real fun started. Out came the 8 weight fly rods. Silvers are aggressive, charging across the river to attack a fly, then jumping and running like an enraged steelhead! The holes were full of salmon, at

times all four of us had fish on at once. We were laughing like kids at recess. Yes, we did catch grayling, lots of grayling. True to our pilot's word, by the end their novelty had worn off.

In the lower river the water slacked, and it was time to be picked up by a jet boat for a ride into Bethel. Our boat pilot was Pete Kaiser, the 2019 Iditarod dogsled race winner.

2023 rolled around and my Arizona buddy Kurt Bahti mentioned that he and his son Ben would like to do an Alaskan rafting trip. Well, it didn't take much arm twisting for me to go back. My son-in-law Steve Bowshier rounded out the group. I called Papa Bear and decided to float the Kisaralik River this time. This offered the Arizona guys some whitewater and a fishing trip. The Kisaralik spends more time in steep mountains and has more varied scenery.





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The rainbow trout were larger here, some over 20" and we hit the silver run strong on the third day. Silvers were thick from then down. Each evening, we would camp on a side channel that held a school of salmon. Fishing was on the doorsteps of our tents. Most days one salmon was sacrificed for dinner, it was followed by a wee dram of old scotch and life was good.

We saw grizzlies, black bears, caribou and ptarmigan. There's something about floating on a river as a bald eagle soars over you, Alaska is beautiful. As I enjoyed coffee one morning a herd of caribou wandered across the hillside above camp. Later that day we drifted by a sow Grizzly

with a yearling cub. Shotguns were loaded and bear spray at 'Ready' luckily, we and the bears just watched each other as we floated by.

The last couple days it rained a lot. Like a whole lot. The river eventually blew out. The fishing was done, and the gravel bars were all underwater. On the last day Pete Kaiser showed up in his jet boat and took us back to the Papa Bear lodge and hot showers.

The Kwethluk river or the Kisaralik river? That will be your choice when bidding on the Papa Bear Adventures Alaskan fishing trip at the ID WSF banquet March 16th, 2024. You can't go wrong with either river or with Papa Bear Adventures.

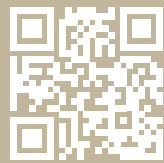


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# UNFINISHED BUSINESS

BY ZACH HIGGINS

This story begins in 2017 when I booked my first attempt at a Dall sheep. While at the Sheep Show in Reno, NV my dad and I were at the Thursday banquet as they played a video of hunters flying in a Piper Cub into the Alaskan wilderness to pursue Dall sheep. While watching the video I told my dad that it was a dream of mine to do that someday. He looked at me and said that I needed to do it now as life is short and to make sure I do the things I love when I can. He also let me know that my grandmother, who had passed away a few months earlier, had left me some money and that I should use it to go on my hunt.

Over the course of the next couple of days of Sheep Show, I spoke to several outfitters who had great success in the prior years and hunts available. The only problem was they were all well outside of my budget. My wife and I had two young boys and I committed financially to something that only benefited myself and not the entire family plagued my conscience. Fortunately, I have a wife who loves to hunt. She told me if that was what I wanted to do with the money my grandma left me, she understood.

Following the Sheep Show I spoke with a close friend, Jim Warner, and asked if he knew of any Dall sheep hunts that were within my budget. Jim informed me of an outfit called Alaska Guide Service. He told me it was going to be a physically challenging backpack hunt, but they have had great success and were killing mature rams every year. Jim was kind enough to personally connect me with George and I immediately knew that he was a standup individual and was there for the hunter, not just selling hunts.

I took a leap of faith filled with excitement and anxiety, not knowing what to expect as I had never been to AK, let alone a backcountry backpack hunt. I booked my trip for this hunt for August of 2019. I did everything I could to get into shape, know my gear, and prepare mentally to go on the hunt of my dreams.

Flash forward two years when I meet up with the other hunter at our hotel in Fairbanks. He had hunted the unit four years ago and had killed a beautiful ram. He enjoyed the hunt so much he was coming back again. My confidence and excitement were through the roof! The next morning, I found myself in a bush plane flying into the AK Range. Living in Northern Nevada and Idaho my whole life, mountains didn't intimidate me, but I'd be lying if the sheer size and magnitude of the Alaska Range had me in awe while a wave of fear kicked in as the mountains kept getting larger and

larger the closer, we got to them. Had I trained enough, did I bring the right gear, and was I going to be tough enough to handle the conditions?

As we landed, we were immediately greeted by George and his business partner, Ron. They told us that George and I were going to head up the west side of the glacier to hunt while Ron and his hunter were going to head up the east side. We had two days before the season opened and we were going to slowly scout our way back to a spike camp at the far corner of the area they hunt. Immediately we saw rams and a large band of lambs/ewes, I was ecstatic!

On opening day, we left spike camp and headed into a bowl that George said typically holds mature rams, but the only way to see them was to get above them.

A few hours of hiking later we were looking at a mature ram. He was all by himself in his bed at 250 yards. We knew he was at least nine years old but was heavily broomed on one side and wasn't full-curl on the other side. I had dreamed of shooting a double-tipped ram and was confident in my physical ability to keep going, but conflicted as to whether I would get another shot opportunity. George let me know that he felt we

could do better but also said that "it is hunting" and the weather may not cooperate, and it's a big country so anything can happen. For the first time in my hunting career, I made the choice to walk away from a mature animal to find what I was looking for.

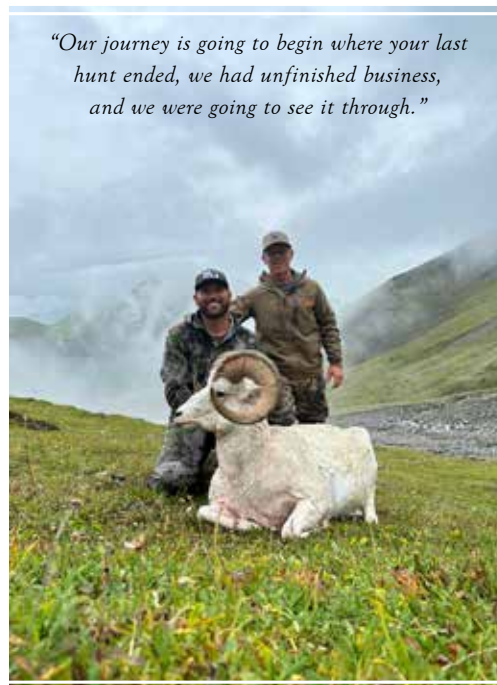
The following day we learned that the other hunter had filled his tag and there were several legal rams in the group. It took a day to cross the glacier and see if we could locate them. We ultimately assumed they moved out of the range, so we headed back to base camp to restock and come up with another plan. We covered every canyon we could trying to find rams. We were seeing lots of sheep, just no legal rams. I had three days left to hunt and the ram I passed on opening day was weighing heavy on my mind.





George told me that we were going to head back into an area where they hadn't killed many rams, but it was our best chance to find one. We headed out, spending the next six hours working our way into spike camp. Soon after setting up our tent, it started to rain and a fog bank went all the way to the valley floor. We took refuge in our two-man tent hoping it would pass quickly, but quickly it did not. Thirty hours later it let up, leaving us a half day to look for sheep before we had to head back to camp as the plane was coming the next day to pick us up. As fate would have it, we were unable to turn up any legal rams and began our long hike back to base camp.

Over the 6-hour hike back to the base camp I had mentally and emotionally come to grips with the fact that I hadn't harvested an animal. At the same time, I couldn't bring myself to be the least bit mad. It had been the greatest hunt that I had ever been on in my life. The country, the animals, my growth as an outdoorsman, and the time spent with George touring his "office" was incredible. I knew then that I was coming back, and it wasn't a matter of "if" it was how soon. George told me that he didn't have an opening until 2023. This killed me as it was four years away, but I knew I didn't want to hunt with anyone else, as George gave it his all. George kept telling me that we had "unfinished business" and that it was going to happen in 2023.



August 18th, 2023, found me in a bush plane headed back to meet up with George. This time, I was much more mentally prepared for what to expect of the country and myself. A friend of mine had hunted the first hunt and both he and the other hunter had early success in their trip. He was able to tell me they had seen over 36 rams in the first few days of their trip with at least five legal rams. The other hunter had seen similar, and they both killed great sheep.

As we unloaded from the bush plane I was again greeted by George, Ron, and their packer, Ivan just as I had been four years and 10 days earlier. After the handshakes and hugs, George told me, "Well Zach, our journey is going to begin where your last hunt ended,

we had unfinished business, and we were going to see it through." He also let me know that they had hiked into the area the day before as they had a hunch a group of rams they'd seen on the first hunt worked into there. George's hunch was right, they were able to locate the rams. After checking my rifle at the range, I shed some gear and we headed off.

As we began our hike, we immediately saw three rams high in the ridges above basecamp. George told me those rams were in the group in which one of the hunters on the first hunt had killed a ram. He also assumed the rams we were going after had split off from them, going into the basin we were headed into. Just as we had crested the saddle into the basin, we took a water break and started to glass for sheep. Immediately George picked up a group over a mile away. After getting the spotting scope out we could tell they were lambs and ewes, but as we kept looking, I turned up two sheep a few rock chutes up from the group. Both were rams and George told me that one of them was worth a closer look. The next morning, we worked our way to the canyon where we had seen the rams.

After carefully crossing the valley, without spooking the sheep, we set up spike camp, had some Mountain House meals, and crawled into our tents to get some sleep. That night I couldn't sleep. I kept waking to check my watch to see if it was time to get up. Around 06:30 I heard George call my name a couple of times and ask if I was ready to go kill my ram. After a quick cup of coffee, we set off along the glacial moraine and headed towards where we saw the two rams the night before.

After hiking for about an hour, we slowly crept out of the moraine where we had seen the sheep the night before. My heart sank, there wasn't a sheep in sight! George told me that they may have moved further up the glacier. He also reminded me we still had the four rams we had seen earlier. However, he had a bowl he wanted to look into before we made that move. As we started to sidehill up from the glacier, we hadn't gone more than a quarter mile and George caught something





out of the corner of his eye. We immediately got down. We could tell there was a sheep above us but could not move for fear it would see us as we were fully exposed. George told me to slowly take off my pack, as it looked to be a ram, and it had not seen us.

As I got my Swarovski 12x50 binoculars out the ram picked his head up and I could see that he was a great ram! I excitedly asked George if he was a legal ram. George said he looked to be legal and to get my rifle out, but not to shoot until we could be 100% positive. At this point, I was shaking with adrenaline, and trying not to look at the sheep, while straining to collect myself. George ranged him at 180 yards and as I got him in my scope he turned and started to feed out of sight into the bowl we were hiking to. George and I grabbed our gear and headed uphill in the direction the ram had gone.

After we got to a rock outcropping for cover and to catch our breath, George peeked over the rocks. He said that the ram was headed back our way and we needed to crawl into a little depression to get a shot opportunity. Laying in the little

depression George told me that the ram was only 50-60 yards away. Also, he was definitely legal, and we were taking a shot at him. As it does in these situations, time started to slow down, I remember sliding my rifle forward on the soft green tundra, and as I looked down the scope the ram was quartering to me, looking right at us. I popped my safety off and asked George if he was ready. He said "Yes." I slowly squeezed the trigger and heard the report of the bullet hitting the ram. He turned and ran twenty or so yards as I watched him

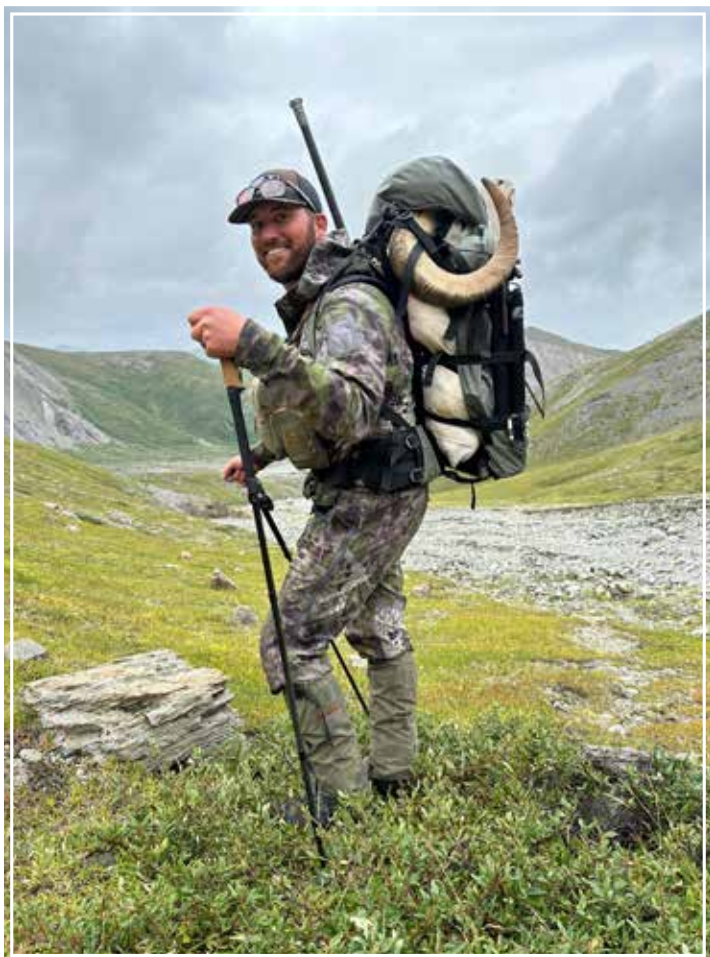
rear backward and go down just out of sight.

George told me to reload and follow him. We ran forward to make sure he wasn't getting up. We stood there and watched as the ram tumbled down the steep face into the bowl. Once the ram stopped George turned to me and said I had a dead ram. We hugged, pounded fists, and relished what had just happened all before 08:00 on the first day I could hunt.

The emotions were overwhelming for me as I looked

at my Dall sheep and realized that it had actually come to fruition. It was especially sweet as this was the same area where I had to come to grips with not harvesting a sheep four years earlier. I couldn't have been happier walking up on the ram; he was the quality that I had been hoping to harvest. It just took me two separate hunts and one more day to make it happen. Once we arrived back at spike camp, we learned that the other hunter had tagged out. This was only the second time in 30 years of guiding sheep that George's hunters tagged out on the first day.

After a long hike out to base camp, we shared stories over backstraps, reminiscing over our adventures together. A couple of days later George was able to get a plane to come in to pick us up. As the wane of the plane's engine got closer and closer, I was enveloped in a sad feeling, knowing that it would be years before I would be able to return to chase sheep in AK. It will always have a special place in my heart. My hope is that someday I can return with my sons to be able to hunt these incredible animals together.



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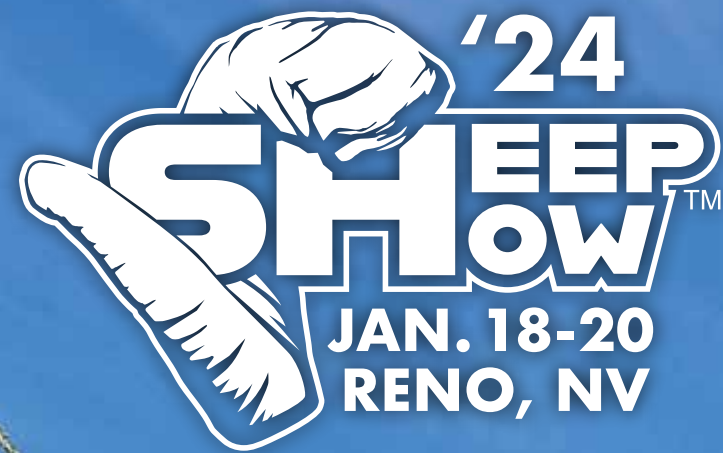
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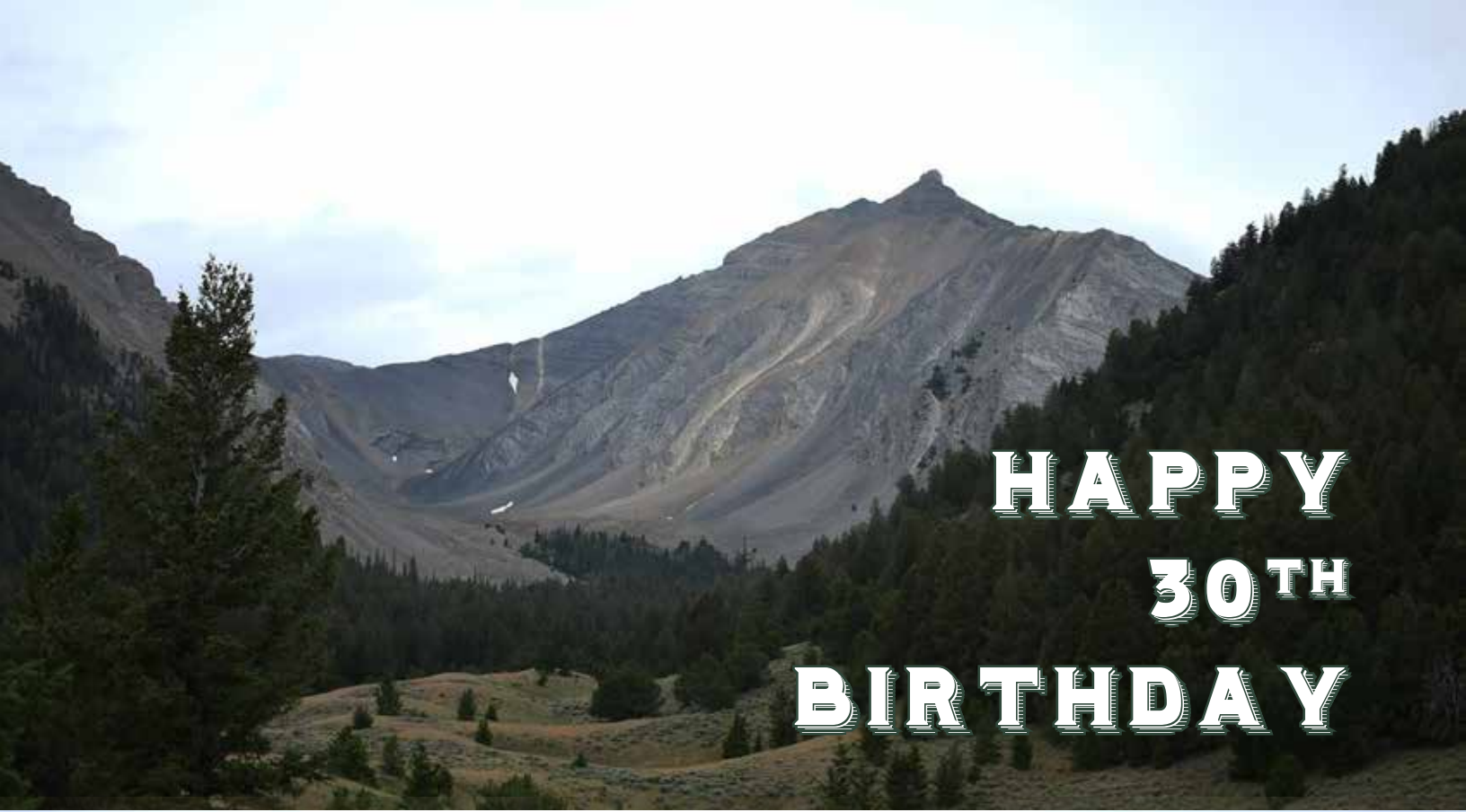


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# HAPPY 30TH BIRTHDAY

**BY MICHAEL KEADY**

When I applied for tags this year I remember thinking how ironic it would be if I pulled a tag this year since I was set to have hip surgery on April 21 and would be going through physical therapy all summer. My 30th birthday was May 19 and I had completely forgotten tag results were coming out. As I was out walking my dog I was checking my emails and saw a chain from other board members notifying each other they were unsuccessful in drawing a tag. I, however, had not received any sort of notification from the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. In my mind, I thought “This would be one hell of a birthday present to be notified I was successful in the draw.” After logging in to my Idaho Fish and Game account, I received the best 30th birthday present anybody could ever ask for, a bighorn sheep tag!

When I received this news, I was one week off crutches after my surgery and physical therapy just became the top of my priority list. Getting healthy again and in shape for this hunt was a main focus through the rest of spring and summer.

The first scouting trip was in mid-July to get a lay

of the land. As I wasn't able to do too much serious hiking there was a lot of time spent driving through the country and behind glass. Thankfully, people I've met through the Idaho Wild Sheep Foundation were able to help point me in the right direction as to where to start looking. This aspect of the sheep community is one reason I believe it is so tight-knit. Given that people are lucky to pull one tag in their lifetime, we are all willing to share information pretty freely when someone we know or know of has pulled a tag. This was only further proved throughout the next few times out scouting. Multiple people I came across out in the mountains were willing to share what information they had on where they had seen sheep in the past or where sheep had been killed.

While each scouting trip continued to produce rams and increased our confidence in our ability to locate them, we just weren't able to find a ram that seemed worth sitting on for opening day. I've been told by experienced sheep hunters to maintain control of the itchy trigger and nerves you feel on opening day and be patient for the right one. However, the weight of knowing this could potentially be the only opportunity

"JUROR NUMBER 22 WHY IS IT THAT YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO ATTEND THE DURATION OF THIS TRIAL" ASKED THE JUDGE. I ANSWERED, "YOUR HONOR, I DREW A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME BIGHORN SHEEP TAG"

I have in my lifetime to be in the mountains with a sheep tag in my pocket started to feel pretty heavy as opening day came on the horizon.

Opening day was on a Wednesday so I planned on being out in the field the Saturday before the season opened to continue scouting and hopefully find a shooter to sit and watch. But a wrench had been thrown into the mix. For the first time in my life, I had been called in for jury duty! Also, it just so happened that I had to go in the week before my hunt was set to open. I wasn't too worried given it was the week before. With jury duty, you receive a jury number. During the week you are to call to see if your number has been called to report for duty. It was either a Tuesday or Wednesday when I was selected to report for jury duty. I showed up in the morning and was assigned to a case with about 30 other people. The judge then explained how jury duty works. Much to my disappointment, he explained this particular case could continue into next week, wrapping up on Tuesday or Wednesday. Wednesday was the opening day for my sheep hunt; I was planning on being on top of a mountain searching for sheep! The judge then asked if anybody had anything that would conflict with their ability to serve as a juror. I raised my number. "Juror number 22 why is it that you won't be able to attend the duration of this trial" asked the judge. I answered, "Your honor, I drew a once-in-a-lifetime

bighorn sheep tag and am leaving the previous weekend for a 10-day hunt." Most people in the courtroom laughed, some cheered, and some congratulated me on my luck in pulling a tag. Thankfully the people in the great state of Idaho understand the importance of something like this; the judge dismissed me from the case!

I had a few areas I wanted to check before the season opened in hopes of finding a respectable ram. The four days leading up to the season were filled with a lot of uncertainty. I just couldn't find the ram I wanted to shoot despite covering many miles, both on foot and by truck. It didn't help that I spent those four days by myself. The internal dialogue I had was probably doing more harm than good causing me to scramble all over the range trying to find a shooter. I was getting way too wrapped up in my thoughts. The days leading into the season produced sheep but I still was not able to find the ram I wanted. So, I decided to choose an area where I would be able to go off in multiple directions from base camp and where I had seen rams before. It was a large area and I knew I had not seen everything within that area.

A couple of friends came out and met me the evening before the opener. If I thought the pressure was heavy leading up to the season, it felt like I was carrying







my buddies had to get home for work. We spent the morning slowly working our way down, glassing for sheep as we went. Once back at base camp, we said our goodbyes. That left two of us in camp. As we were cooking lunch before heading back to check out a different area we were also glassing. And sure enough, we located two rams a couple miles away high on a shale hillside. They were so far away we couldn't determine much about them; however, they seemed like decent rams. We packed up our gear and worked our way up the drainage for a closer look. Upon further inspection, I decided one was a ram I would be happy shooting. From the beginning, my goal was to shoot a ram I would be happy with, however, I didn't want the shot to be over 300 yards; this opportunity provided both. The two rams were slowly working their way up a large area of boulder and shale. Thankfully there were a couple of rows of trees provided cover up the mountain toward the sheep. We positioned ourselves at the bottom of the line of trees, which was about 30 yards in width, so we had

plenty of cover as we started heading uphill in the direction of the rams. Halfway up I dropped most of my gear, moving forward with my binoculars and rifle. My buddy kept his pack so that I could use it for a rest. Slowly we crept forward, carefully trying not to roll and rocks downhill or snap any branches. We were coming up on the end of the trees and could see the shale in front of us. Whenever on a 'blind' stalk where you lose sight of the animal you're after there is always a nagging thought they move off and be gone. Thankfully these rams were in no hurry and we spotted them. One was slowly making his way up a narrow chute and shortly he was going to be out of view. The other ram was feeding his way up a stepped-up cliff. We had enough time to look at both rams. I decided the one feeding up the cliff was the one to shoot. Setting up quickly on my buddy's pack, I got the ram in night scope. The ram was 200 yards away and working right to left and about halfway up the cliff face on a ledge. In about five or six more steps he was going to put a tree in between



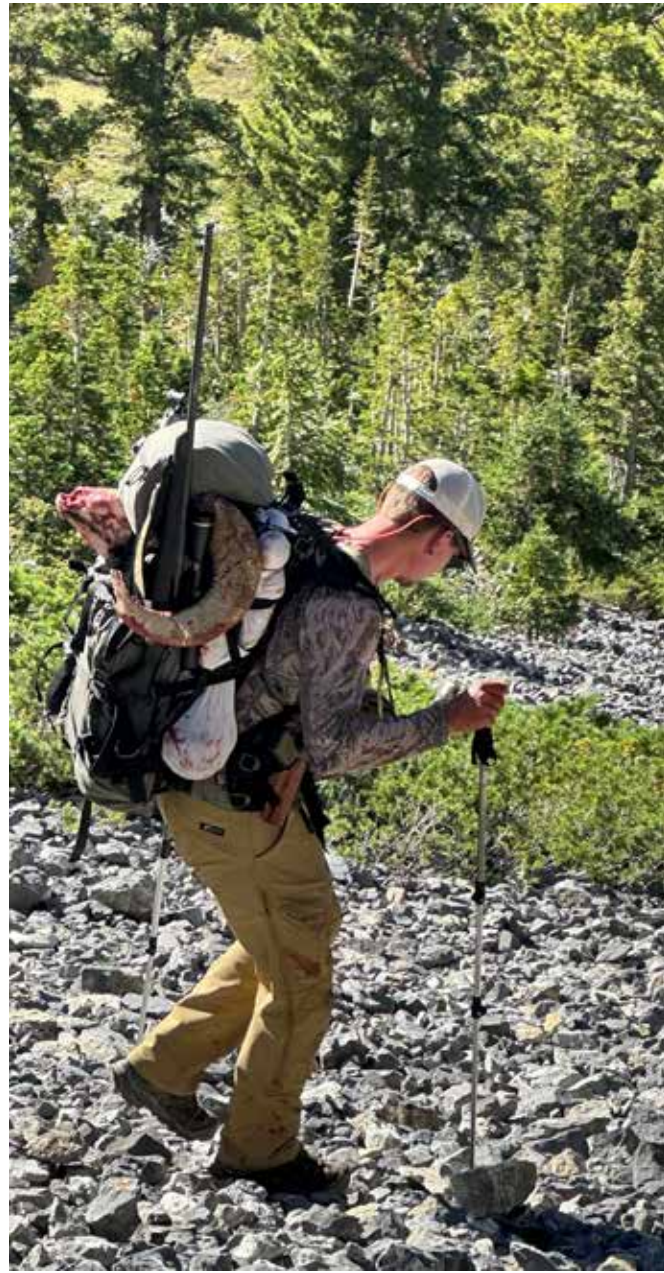
a backpack full of bricks as we started the hunt opening day. Quickly we located our first ram of the day, a small one but it seemed like a good omen seeing one right out of the gate. We proceeded further up the trail toward where we intended to make camp. After setting camp, we moved to head further into the basin and then up and over to be able to see into the next drainage. We weren't 300 yards from camp when my buddy announced he saw a ram above us. We quickly got the spotting scope on him but due to the angle and distance, we couldn't tell exactly the quality of the ram. Thankfully he was in the direction we were planning on heading anyway, and if he stayed put he would be within 100 yards. I have made this mistake in the past and will probably make it again, but as we moved toward the ram, we were spotted by a band of rams we had not seen; all small unfortunately. We weren't sure if

they alerted the ram so the only thing we could do was continue with our original plan. As we got closer and closer the ram was nowhere to be seen. As we looped around, we ended up coming across another small ram which I passed on. We started back toward camp but stopped to look back where we had originally seen the ram. There he was, he had moved off slightly from where he originally was. Now we were close enough to see how big he was. Decision time. While he was a ram I would be happy with, I remembered everyone telling me to not get too itchy with the trigger finger on opening day. I told myself that we were seeing sheep frequently and I had plenty of time left to locate a large ram. So, we decided to leave that ram and head back to camp, knowing if our other efforts failed we could come back for him.

The next day we returned to base camp as one of







himself and my rifle. If that happened, we could've repositioned but that could have potentially alerted him to our position thus, through a small window of branches, I took the shot. The shot hit behind his shoulder, causing the ram to fall off the ledge and began tumbling downhill. After rolling about 100 yards the ram got caught and stopped rolling. We watched and he slowly stopped kicking and lay there, seemingly dead. I thought it was over and allowed my emotions to go; pure excitement that I had just killed a bighorn ram! But then he started to kick again and stood up. He had the look and slow shaky movement of a badly hurt animal. I wasn't going to take any chances so I shot twice more. Hitting the ram again he fell and started rolling downhill for another 100 yards or so. This time there was no kicking and he was not getting up again.

Walking up on that ram was a surreal moment and something I'll never forget. His tumble down the mountain resulted in some busted tips of his horns but I say it adds more character and makes for a great story. We were able to get the ram quartered and back to the truck before dark. The pack out wasn't awful, it was mostly downhill and less than a couple of miles.

It was odd driving home with a ram in the back of my truck. Odd in the sense that for the past few months, nothing was more important and nothing consumed more of my time. The hunt was over. I now had to get back to reality, and unfortunately, back to work. I understand now why everyone becomes obsessed with hunting sheep after their first hunt. I look forward to helping out others on their ram hunts and hopefully being fortunate enough to hunt sheep again in my lifetime.



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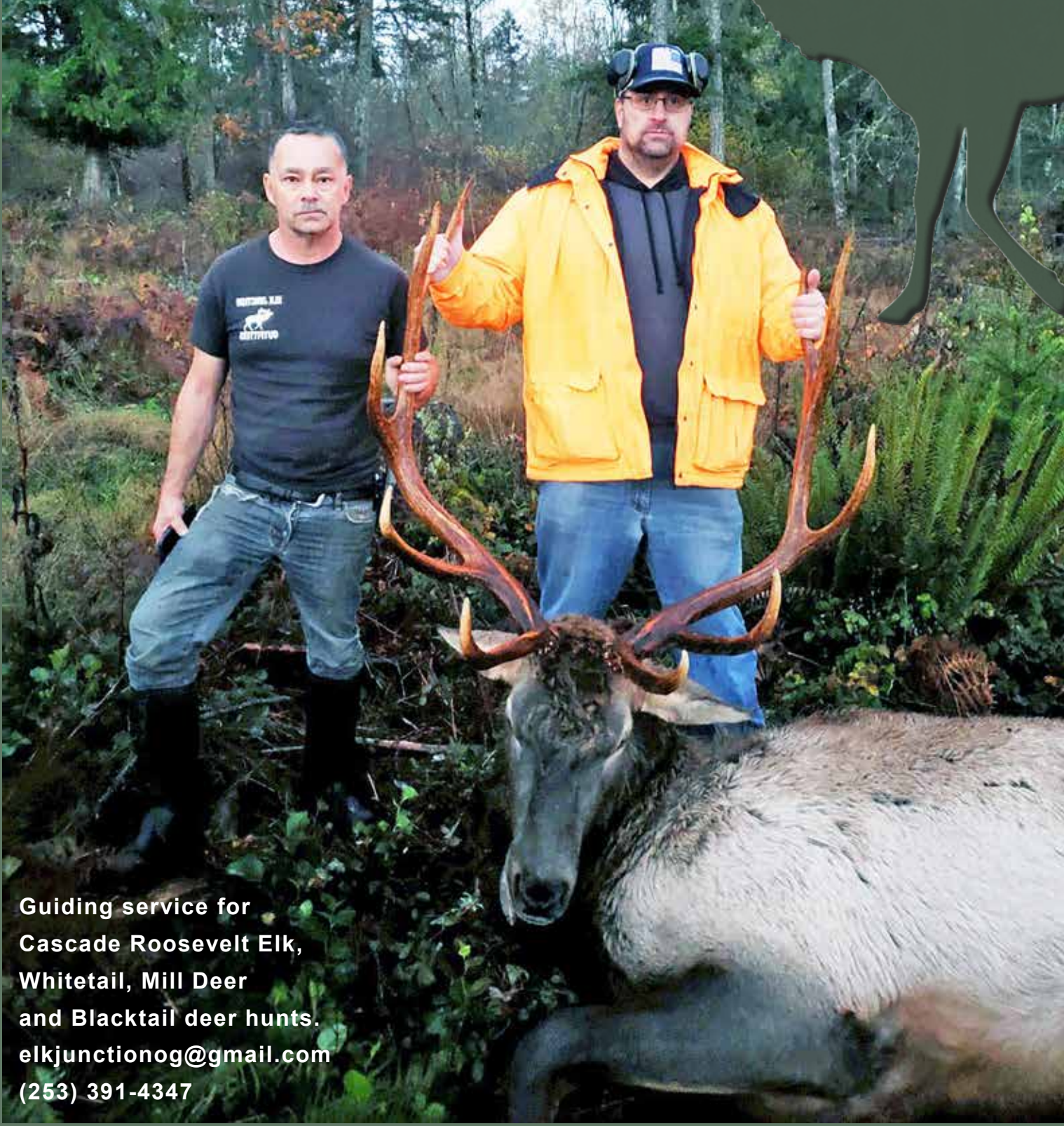


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## Summer Social

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## Idaho Bighorn Lottery Tag Drawing



Thank you to everyone who attended the annual Summer Social and Idaho Bighorn Lottery Tag Drawing in July. Over 150 were in attendance at events in Lewiston, Idaho Falls and Boise with raffles at each location. Special guest Hollie Miyasaki with IDFG drew the lucky recipient of the 2023 tag. A new record amount for a non Unit 11 year, of over \$286,000 goes directly to bighorn conservation in Idaho.

Tickets for the 2024 Idaho Bighorn Lottery Tag are on sale now and this year, it includes Unit 11. Mark your calendars for July 26, 2024 for the next Summer Social and Idaho Bighorn Lottery Tag drawing.

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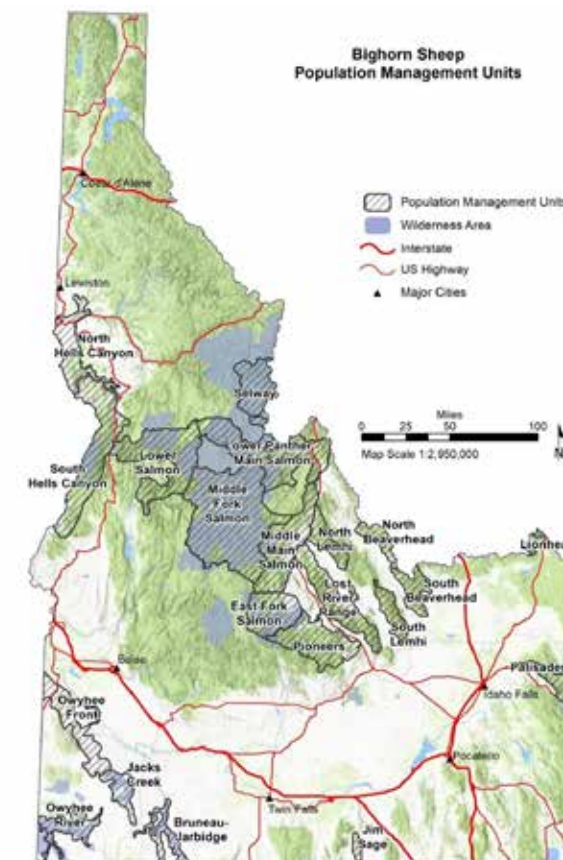
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# BIGHORN SHEEP MANAGEMENT PLANS 2023/2024

By Hollie Miyasaki

Idaho Fish & Game Bighorn Program Lead

(Plans are subject to change)





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# BIGHORN SHEEP MANAGEMENT PLANS 2023/2024

Last year we went BIG by capturing and collaring 215 bighorn sheep in eight populations. This year we are going BIGGER with plans to capture and collar 265 bighorn sheep in seven populations. This will require a lot of long days in the field by IDFG personnel and ID WSF volunteers so be watching your emails for volunteer opportunities.

The continuing collaboration of the Idaho Dept of Fish and Game (IDFG), the Idaho Wild sheep Foundation, the National WSF and the Midwest WSF has made this all possible. The additional funding and volunteers provided by the chapters and National WSF have helped IDFG expand bighorn sheep work to more areas of the state.

2022 was the first year the Idaho Department of Fish and Game implemented the current Bighorn Sheep Management Plan and 215 bighorn sheep were captured and collared from December 2022 to March 2023. These captures occurred in eight Population Management Units (PMUs) including three California bighorn sheep populations and five Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep populations. Bighorn sheep were radio-collared and biological samples were collected including DNA, nasal swabs and blood. Nasal swabs and blood samples will primarily be used to test for Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae (Movi). Other information recorded included weight, body fat measurements, and pregnancy. Data from radio-collared sheep has been and will continue to be used to monitor habitat use, movements, and to determine cause specific mortality. The collars send a mortality signal when they stop moving. This allows biologists to conduct field necropsies to determine the cause of death, whether it be disease, malnutrition, or predation. If it's a predator they can often determine the species of predator.





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# BIGHORN SHEEP MANAGEMENT PLANS 2023/2024



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- Gather information on habitat use, movements and lamb survival.



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# BIGHORN SHEEP MANAGEMENT PLANS 2023/2024



**MIDDLE MAIN SALMON**  
(New this year. Challis, Morgan Creek area)

- Capture 30 bighorn sheep (helicopter)
- Gather data on herd health.
- Gather information on habitat use and movements, especially as it relates to wilderness.



**NORTH BEAVERHEAD**  
(New this year)

- Capture 15 bighorn sheep (helicopter)
- Gather data on herd health.
- Gather information on habitat use and movements.



**SOUTH BEAVERHEAD**

- Capture 20 bighorn sheep using ground and helicopter capture methods.
- Continue with test and remove efforts.
- Gather information on habitat use, movements, lamb survival, cause specific mortality.



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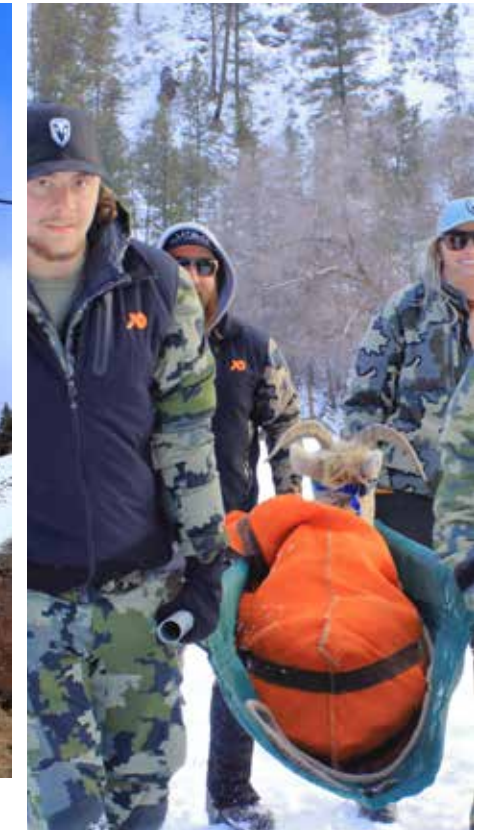
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## BIGHORN SHEEP MANAGEMENT PLANS 2023/2024



### JACKS CREEK AND OWYHEE FRONT

- Capture 20 bighorn sheep to maintain sample size.
- Continuation of project from last year to look at habitat use, movements, lamb survival and cause specific mortality.

### MIDDLE FORK AERIAL SURVEY

- Helicopter survey to get estimate of population size and age/sex ratios.
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- This area has not been surveyed since 2017.







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# GRAYL



## SPARTAN PRECISION EQUIPMENT



### Understanding ROC: the Risk of Contact for wild sheep with domestic sheep grazing allotments

Bill London, Conservation Committee Co-Chair

For wild sheep herds throughout the west, the distance to the nearest domestic sheep allotment is a good predictor of pneumonia-induced die-offs. This is due to the transmission of *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* (Movi) from domestic sheep, which increases wild sheep susceptibility to secondary bacterial infections resulting in pneumonia. These outbreaks impact all age classes of bighorn sheep and negatively affect lamb recruitment for many years. Thus, the separation of domestic sheep and bighorn sheep is necessary to secure the long-term viability of bighorn sheep populations.

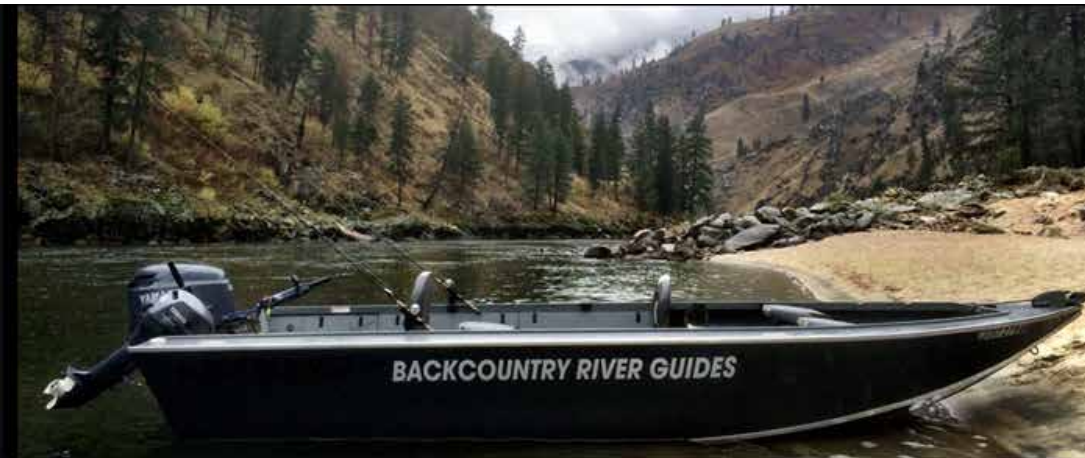
While bighorn sheep are managed by Idaho Fish and Game, bighorn sheep habitat is mostly managed by federal agencies; in Idaho primarily the US Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The Forest Service has a legal requirement to, "maintain viable populations of existing native and desired non-native vertebrate species," and Forest Service procedure requires Forests to, "minimize impacts to species whose viability has been identified as a concern and listed by the Regional Forester as a sensitive species." Bighorn sheep meet both these requirements. Additionally, the Forest Service must also

administer their lands for multiple use, including use by domestic sheep grazing permittees.

To balance these competing requirements, the Forest Service performs analyses to guide management decisions meant to minimize the risk of contact between the two sheep species. One such analysis is the Risk of Contact (ROC) tool. The ROC is a computer model developed by the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management that provides a quantitative, landscape-scale risk assessment. It objectively evaluates risk based on bighorn sheep population size, available suitable habitat and the distance between bighorn sheep home ranges and domestic sheep allotments. It delineates a wild sheep Core Herd Home Range (CHHR) to identify the places on the landscape likely to be occupied by wild sheep. This is based in part on the telemetry records generated by the Idaho Fish and Game radio collaring campaigns that the Idaho Wild Sheep Foundation has helped to fund.

At any given time most bighorn sheep will reside in their CHHR. However, some occasionally go on walkabouts. These are referred to as forays. A foraying bighorn who





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contacts domestic sheep may carry Movi back to the CHHR. Since rams are ten times more likely to foray than ewes, the sex ratio of the herd is among the information needed to run the model. Although often thought of as a probability, the model actually calculates how often a bighorn sheep from the Core Herd Home Range will contact the grazing allotment. The reciprocal of this rate is the number referred to as the ROC, with units of years per contact. The Forest Service often uses a value of 0.08 (one contact every 12.5 years) as its acceptable threshold, although this choice is arbitrary. Given the multi-decadal impacts of a disease event it seems easy to make the case that 0.08 is not sufficiently conservative.

While the ROC model is appealing because of its objectivity it is not universally employed in making grazing allotment permitting decisions. One common objection is that its results are sensitive to the quality of the input data. The Deputy Chief of the Forest Service has directed that a qualitative approach is sufficient if it can be justified based on inadequate data. However, this data criticism is true for any computer model and the obvious solution is to invest in collecting better data. The choice to use qualitative assessments can replace the objective calculation with "guesstimates" by individual Forest Service biologists. Investment in improved data is currently underway in Idaho Fish and Game's statewide Bighorn Sheep Action Plan and is financially supported by the Idaho Wild Sheep Foundation and the national Wild Sheep Foundation.

The question that next arises is: how should ROC values calculated for individual allotments be interpreted when multiple allotments are close to a Core Herd Home Range? Should the ROCs be summed, to calculate a total risk? Or should they be averaged to generate a mean risk? Although averaging has been used it is incorrect. Including the ROC from some distant allotment in an allotment group artificially lowers the perceived risk for closer allotments in that group. Imagine a child who usually plays in her own backyard but suddenly makes a foray into the neighborhood. Her risk of contact with the angry pit bull next door is not decreased by the friendly cocker spaniel across the street.

It might be argued that the sum of the risks is also inappropriate because a foraying ram is unlikely to contact all the grazing allotments. This argument is

incorrect because the model does not consider individual rams; rather, the calculation considers the whole sheep herd and multiple allotments may indeed be contacted by multiple sheep. Further, a single foraying ram may cover a lot of ground and contact with one grazing allotment does not exclude contact with additional allotments. Adding additional pit bulls to the neighborhood produces an additive, not an average risk.

It is important to stress that the model calculates only the rate at which foraying bighorn sheep will contact a grazing allotment. It does not calculate whether an allotment contact actually results in contact between the species or how often contact between the species results in disease transmission. It is known that the two species seek each other out and cases are documented in which a single contact has resulted in a bighorn sheep die-off. Thus, these rates are probably high. Further, the model does not account for domestic sheep that may stray onto the CHHR from their allotments or during trailing. It is also not used to estimate risk due to domestic sheep on private or state lands that may be nearby, but outside Forest Service jurisdiction. Thus, the risk of contact will often be higher than that suggested by the calculation.

While it is important to understand its limitations, the ROC tool remains the best method for objectively estimating the risk presented by domestic sheep grazing allotments to bighorn sheep on nearby range. It allows for an apples-to-apples comparison of various allotments. This is precisely what it was designed to do. The software and its user guide are published and commonly available. Its use has been documented in the scientific literature and upheld in court decisions. It is an objective approach to better understanding the risk of disease transmission to bighorn sheep from domestic sheep and it provides a management tool appropriate to informing grazing permit decisions.





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# A RIDGE TOO FAR

## ALMOST.....

BY MATT MONSON

**D**id you hear the one about the non-resident who pulled a Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep tag along the Middle Fork of the Salmon River in Idaho's Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness? It's a harrowing tale of extreme personal danger, hate, discontent, and pure unhidden suspense!

A few years back, I had the privilege of hunting the Middle Fork for elk with international man of mystery Steve Zettel. Steve has run the outfitting company Idaho Wilderness Co. out of Challis, Idaho for almost 40 years. One of his guides, Adam, is also a Marine 0311 (Military Occupation Specification that details the duties of an Infantry goon like me) so we hit it off and had a great time. After that trip Steve and Adam encouraged me to start putting in for the sheep tag.

I am from a small town in Iowa called Algona, and I currently reside in Georgia. I'd never seen a bighorn

sheep or even met anyone who had hunted sheep. You can imagine my surprise when I drew that tag this year on my second attempt. After some excitement and disbelief, I got to thinking.... How hard could sheep hunting be compared to elk and deer? Pointed antlers vs curled horns? Right?

For those of you that have never experienced the Frank Church Wilderness, it's a must-see bucket list event you will never forget. Beautiful, steep country you can spend a week in and never see another human.

Since this was destined to be a beautiful and grand adventure, and it cost as much as a trip to Tahiti, I asked my lovely, adventurous, vivacious, badass Fiancé Nicole to come along. She grew up around whitetail hunting in the Midwest and I knew she could hang. We probably looked like a band of gypsies coming through the Atlanta airport with all our gear, but everything went smoothly. We got to

Challis and then took an air taxi from a small airport in Challis to a remote camp about 50 miles from the closest road.

We were greeted on the airstrip by Steve and Adam plus some horses. Adam and I immediately started questioning each other's manhood, which is just good manners in the Corps. Adam seemed genuinely impressed when I told him my plan to be the first Marine to get a ram wearing silkies. Silkies are regulation PT (physical training) shorts. They are the shortest shorts, truly embarrassing to be seen in. Marines often take pictures wearing them in odd places, like on the top of Kilimanjaro, Machu Pichu, or a fancy restaurant.

We rode into camp and got squared away. On the first day we glassed until our eyes bled. We were so excited, and it occurred to me that sheep look a lot like rocks. This is the point when I started thinking I might have my work cut out for me. The Middle Fork is big country and I mean HUGE. Mountains and ridges dropping off 4,000-6,000 ft down to creeks and rivers. How am I going to spot a grey sheep amongst grey rocks and thick trees? An unfamiliar feeling of nerves started forming in my guts...

Day 2 we were out glassing and got the signal from camp that rams had been spotted. We hurried back and saw where we were headed. Steve just pointed across a huge canyon to the very top of a ridge that stretched for miles. In fact, I couldn't see the rams. Steve just handed me a frame pack. Knowing Steve, I am shocked he didn't hide rocks in it....

Adam and I walked to the end of a finger ridge while Nicole, Steve and the camp jack all took a position to watch the show. It was around noon, and we had a 4,500 ft vertical drop to get to the canyon floor and approx. 5,500-6,500 ft of elevation to climb up a knife edge ridge on the other side. The knife edge ridge was a monster, it was all loose gravel, rocky cliffs, and it stretched for miles from where it hit the canyon floor to the apex where the rams were.

This is it! Time to "make the move." "The Move" can briefly be explained by "closing the distance." Getting close where you can be heard, seen, or winded. It is hard and really exciting. To make the move on these rams we had to race sunset. We had seven hours, and we were off. Maximum effort! Off the ledge we descended to the bottom. We got to the creek in just under two hours. My legs were a little shaky. And then it hit me. We must

scale this monster in five hours...and if we are lucky the rams will still be there.

I have run several full marathons and I can tell you, without a shadow of doubt, that this stalk was the hardest thing I have ever done in my life. We had to stay on the backside of the knife edge to avoid the rams seeing us, so we side-hilled up the ridge as hard as we could for about five hours. Finally, we came up to the last finger ridge to where we wanted to shoot from. I belly crawled into to position and there at 300 yards were three stud rams: each a little bigger than the last.

At this point I'd stopped sweating, and my legs were cramping terribly. The biggest ram was facing away from me, so I focused on his white rump fur, waiting for him to step broadside. The sun was fading fast. At best we had 10-15 minutes left of legal light. I was thinking "Do I, do it?" A shot that kicks in the backdoor of this ram? I've never done a Texas-Heart-shot before. The middle ram took a step and went broadside so we quickly shifted our attention and decided this was the ram to shoot. I got down into a good position, let my breath drop the reticle and missed. The ram took a few steps and went broadside again. I aimed 8" higher and went through the same routine. Breath, focus, let the rifle surprise you, follow through. Instantly the ram disappeared off the back of the ridge he had stood on.

We covered the distance to where the ram had stood, but now it was dark, crazy steep and we were exhausted. The shot had felt great, and the crew back watching the show from the ridge by camp was trying to signal us but it was impossible to understand what was said. We decided we







should carve out a couple shallow graves in the mountain and wait until daylight. We had a PB and J sandwich and drank some very precious water.

The area we carved out to lay down was unforgiving so little sleep was to be had. Up and moving with the first light, we had a coyote's breakfast (a drink of water and a look around), we didn't find any blood or tumble marks. A couple sets of sheep tracks moving away from the area but nothing to give us hope. I was beginning to get a terrible feeling. Then the fan club across the canyon signaled that the ram was below us. Exhausted shuffles turned into excited bounds and 150 yds below us there was a beauty of a ram up against a tree. He had been hit

right through both shoulders with a .300 Win mag Nosler round and had tumbled instantly.

What a thrill to touch such a beautiful animal. We moved quickly to take pictures and get the meat processed. We were sick all night worrying about possible meat spoilage. We were so relieved when we got the hide off and it didn't smell funky. We packed up and I could not believe how much horns, meat, and hide all weighed. Going downhill sounds easy but with a 100-pound pack, and a decent so steep you would tumble 400-500 yds and smash a tree if you fell, It was so hard. Thankfully a little ways down the slope we had a couple of wonderful humans come from camp to help us haul everything out. We even had horses

for the ride back up that 4,500 ft of elevation we had lost from camp. Back at camp the celebration, still in silkies, ensued and we got to hear the stories from those watching us.

They had watched us the whole time, Adam walking upright and me doing some crazy apelike bear crawl with a pack on. Racing the sun, the stalk was in doubt the entire time. Lots of excitement for my fiancé and entertainment for everyone else.

I feel very blessed to be able to tell this story. I feel even happier that Nicole got to come and share this experience. The Middle Fork of the Salmon River is a very special place to be a part of. No mix of words can touch that sensation of knowing you were there and alive in that corner of the world. There is a fantastical sense that you got to walk in the footsteps of giants like the Sheepeater Indians and the great Jack O Connor. It was the type of peak that may never come again.

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Apex Next Evolution is proud to support the Idaho Wild Sheep Foundation and its members in their conservation efforts. As a brand that was developed by hunters, for hunters, Apex Next Evolution understands and appreciates the work and commitment it takes to preserve wildlife for future generations to come and welcomes opportunities to get involved.

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“Our team recently attended the 38th annual Idaho Wild Sheep Banquet and Fundraiser and were blown away by the caliber of the event and the great work this organization does. The Idaho Wild Sheep Foundation and its members are making incredible strides to protect wild sheep and have set a high standard for others to follow. We look forward to continuing supporting and playing a role in their conservation efforts. **Conservation isn’t just something you can idly stand by and watch happen it takes leaders to make things happen** and Idaho is certainly an example of boots on the ground leadership and vision.” Says Chad Fraughton, Apex Next Evolution Chief Sales Officer.

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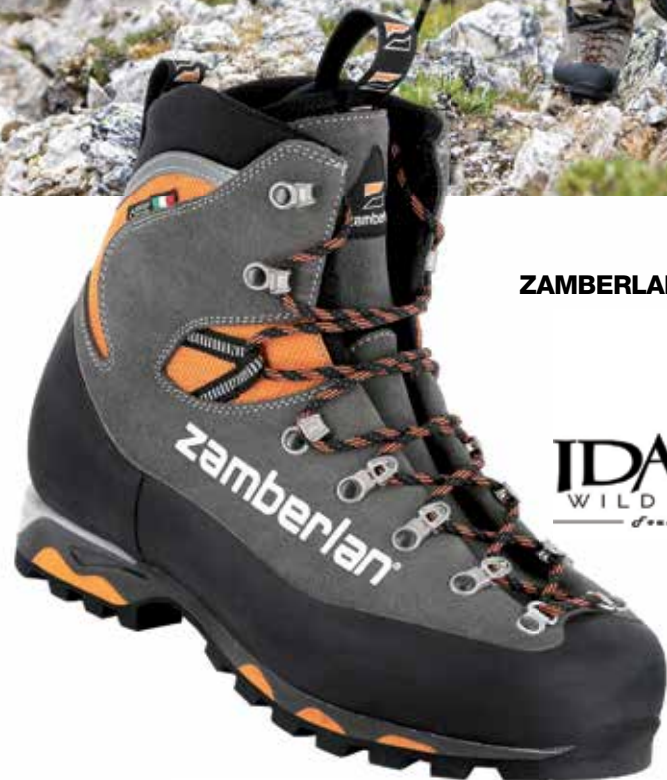
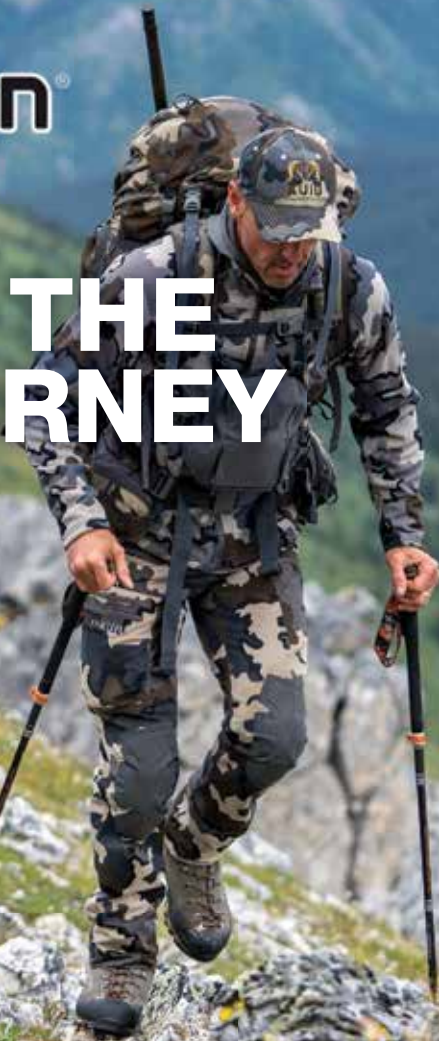


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# TO THE HELL HOLE AND BACK

BY: MARK ROWLEY, TR.

I have hunted all my life but never applied for a bighorn sheep tag. My 'sheep fever' started with winning the 2022 banquet Life Member Dall sheep drawing at the Idaho Wild Foundation annual banquet. The first three names drawn were not in attendance so, I was lucky number four. I was hoarse for the whole next week with all the whooping and hollering I did when they called my name. My Alaska Dall hunt is scheduled for 2024. So, that got me thinking about applying for a Rocky Mountain bighorn tag in Idaho. When the 2023 draw period opened up, some of my sheep family from Idaho WSF told me I needed to apply. So, as the deadline was closing in, I entered the draw.

My wife, grandson, and I were coming home from a sheep count in Leslie Gulch, Oregon when my wife started getting messages that the draw results were out. When I got home, I tried logging in to see the results but could not log in. I went to the IDFG office in Nampa the next day and couldn't believe it when they told me I was successful. I started calling and texting just about everybody I knew. My first call was to Jim Warner. Jim had a lot to do with me putting in for the tag. We discussed the area and when to hunt. It felt good knowing that I had a lot of people willing to help me.

In August I scouted the hunt area and made a plan. Triston Warner planned to come up the second weekend of September. His dad, Jim, was coming up the third weekend. I set up base camp the last weekend of August to scout before opening day. I spent the entire weekend spotting, finding everything except, what I was looking for. I did get excited just spotting my first ram but it was not a shooter. Over the next couple of days, I was getting a little frustrated and discouraged. I saw quite a few ewes and lambs, including a stalker ewe. I even had a group of bighorns come right into camp! Thursday night I decided to pack up and move upriver for the night. I had decided to go home Saturday morning and return the next weekend. I left camp Friday morning and stopped at Duncans Outpost to let them know what I was doing as Grant and Faye had been keeping in touch with Jim and Triston to make sure I was checking in and okay. That is when Grant let me know that Triston was coming ahead of schedule. Triston and his friend Dalton McDonald were already on their way with Jim, Hannah, and Wyatt coming up later that night. We all met at Doug and Shelly Sayer's and, what a sheep camp! They called themselves 'Team Mark' and that they were.

Saturday, we split into two groups of three to scout for sheep. Triston, Dalton, and I didn't see any sheep that morning but, Jim, Hannah, and Wyatt spotted several groups and one possible shooter.

Saturday afternoon Dalton spotted seven rams. Dalton, Triston, and I watched the rams for about three hours







Mark, Dalton and Triston

wondering how we could get to them. The rams were in what we nicknamed 'Hell Hole'. We headed back to sheep camp and, when we arrived Shelly and Hannah had dinner ready for everybody. After dinner, we discussed a plan to get to the rams.

Dalton had found a way to go in from the bottom so the plan for Sunday morning was set. We left the truck at 5:00 a.m. and started up the hill. Four hours later we got to the saddle across from where the rams were the night before. Dalton and Triston were ahead of me, waiting. They had spotted the rams but they were farther away than I was comfortable shooting. We sat there watching and waiting for the rams to bed down. While Dalton and Triston looked at the maps trying to figure out how to get to a shooting spot the rams finally bedded down. The packs went back on and up the ridge we went. We finally got to the spot where we needed to drop down and over a ridge to get to a shooting spot. I was really skeptical about going down and across but, off we went. We proceeded cautiously, as it was steep, raining and I didn't want anybody to get hurt. We made it to our spot, 307 yards from where the rams were bedded. Triston helped me get

set and go through two dry-fire rounds. The rams were still bedded as I put a round in, took a deep breath, and fired. Dalton said, 'Good hit'. The ram stood up staggering and turned to give me another broadside shot. He fell rolling into a sagebrush, which thankfully kept him from rolling down to the creek bottom. Ram down at about 4 p.m. Jim and Hannah had been watching our progress and giving my wife updates.

We finally got to the ram about an hour and a half later. What a tank and, emotional experience walking up to the ram. I was really exhausted from the entire week, plus the stalk. By the time we got to the ram I could barely hold my arms up but I managed to throw them up in victory and turned in the direction of Jim and Hannah.

We cleaned the ram up and took a ton of pictures just before the rain started again. Now the work began, skinning and boning the ram in the rain at nightfall. We loaded our packs and started out at about 10:30 p.m. Down the hill through the wet slippery rocks, we went. Up and down, across, down, up, back down and up, wondering, 'Where in the hell are we and whose idea was

this?' We are on the final climb and all I can think about is lying down and going to sleep. I heard Triston holler to me that he and Dalton were at the saddle, waiting for this old man. It was now 5 a.m. Monday morning.

Finally, the last decent. It was light for the rest of the trip down and we arrived at the bottom at 9 a.m. where Jim, Wyatt, and Hannah greeted us. We were all exhausted and ready for bed. We made it back to the sheep camp where everybody admired my big, beautiful ram. I could not believe the size of the ram, he was a real trophy, and this was indeed the hunt of a lifetime!

This hunt would not have happened without the help of my Idaho WSF sheep family members and my new brother Dalton. Thank you, Triston, Dalton, Jim, Hannah, and Wyatt who made the trip to spend your weekend helping me accomplish this adventure; one I will never forget! We went to the Hell Hole and back. Special thanks to Doug and Shelly Sayer for a memorable sheep camp and to Grant and Faye Duncan for their hospitality and keeping tabs on me. Also, thanks to my loving wife, Tracy, for putting up with me and my passion for hunting.



The Stalker



'Team Mark' is in route.



Dalton, Triston, Mark, Wyatt, Hannah, Jim



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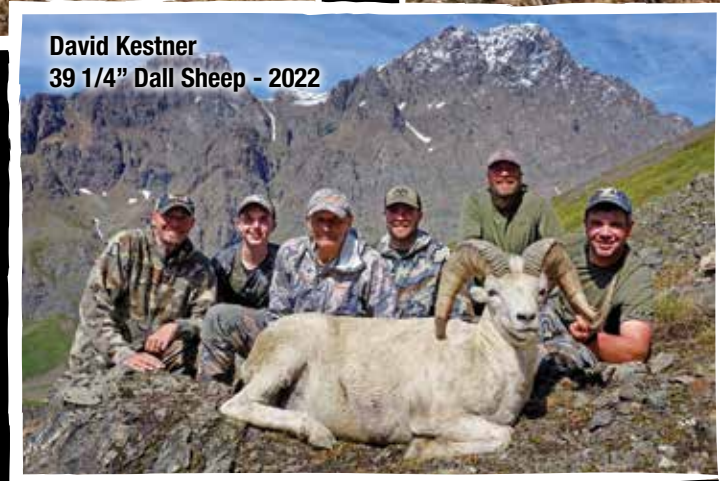
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9'9" Brown Bear - 2022



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# A DALL FOR PAUL

AS TOLD BY: SCOT JENKINS

## A FATHER & SON'S WILD SHEEP ODYSSEY



This story chronicles a North American wild sheep Journey shared between a father and his two sons. Scot Jenkins and sons Paul and Seth shared their wild sheep adventures during a 32-year period from September 1991 through August 2023. These hunts included two self-guided sheep hunts in Idaho in 2006 and Nevada in 2019 for the modest price of a nonresident tag and the cost of fuel. Guided sheep hunts ranged in price from very modest in 1991 to “Brain-hurting” in 2023. Paul’s 2023 Dall sheep hunt cost more than twice the price of the home and half-acre lot that Paul lived in when he was born in 1979. Paul’s 2023 Dall hunt also cost more than the combined price of his father’s two Desert sheep hunts (AZ-2004 & NV-2019). The future outlook for the costs of hunting wild sheep looks grim.

During the 1980s and ‘90s, the concept of preference points came to life in a number of western states. New Mexico and Idaho eventually became the holdouts with nearly all other western states utilizing point systems for coveted big game drawings. It became apparent in the 90s that it might be wise to begin accumulating points for my sons so they too could possibly draw some high-quality hunts in the future. My teenage boys began collecting points during the ‘90s in WY for seven dollars per year and in other states as well. We were fortunate to

draw some quality big game tags over the years utilizing point systems. The elusive grand prize we wanted, however, and thought to be most achievable was a coveted WY bighorn sheep tag. With maximum points, that dream did become partially true in 2000 with a tag displaying my name, but my sons were destined to wait impatiently. But how many years or decades must they wait?

Background - In 1990 I decided to expand my personal hunting horizons beyond self-guided local western mule deer and elk hunts. I researched and booked a self-guided floatplane drop-camp caribou hunt out of King Salmon, Alaska. The Mulchatna caribou herd was booming at that time. My brother, a friend, and I had no trouble taking three fine Barren Ground caribou bulls. I followed that adventure up by booking my first guided Dall sheep hunt in the NWT with Arctic Red River Outfitters and experienced my first hard-core backpack sheep hunt. On day nine of a grueling 10-day hunt, I took a well-earned nine-year-old Dall sheep. Enough miles were hiked in just those two hunts that my first pair of Gore-Tex lined boots were totally destroyed. The rigors of fly-in backpack hunts are best suited for young and healthy athletic types.

In 1996 I heard word of an outfitter who had tribal

authorization to guide wild sheep hunts on First Nation tribal land along the AK/YK border north of Eagle, AK. Better yet, there was a modest percentage of Fannin sheep included in the local population. Fannins are considered a cross between Dall’s and Stone sheep. Any sheep that has gray or black hair is not classified as a pure white Dall’s sheep but rather included in the Stone sheep category. This hunt also was a tough physical, fly-in backpack hunt; success came only after many exhausting days, late in the hunt. I was thrilled and fortunate that my ram had a black tail and gray/black fur easily seen on his front knees and scattered throughout his saddle and around his eyes.

Being on the ground floor of several state point systems, I drew a WY bighorn sheep tag in hunt Unit 4 in 2000 and enjoyed a classic wilderness style horse-back, pack train hunt out of Dubois, WY with Fritz Meyer and Cody Brown. Days into the hunt, we decided it would be best to spike out rather than continue hunting from the comfortable wall tent base camp. Using horse blankets as sleeping pads high on the mountain with a tarp over four of us sleeping on the ground was no picnic. Understandably quality sleep was hard to come by. One day while glassing remote peaks, my guides fell fast asleep in the warm midday sun. While they snoozed, I hiked over to another drainage and glassed up my ram grazing with a younger buddy. A 380-yard shot with my 300 Win Mag rifle sealed the deal. It was a great adventure and I was pleased with my 9-year-old WY ram.







Years previously I had paid a deposit to get in line with the Hualapai Indian tribe to eventually hunt Desert sheep with them in the Grand Canyon. In 2004, my long-awaited opportunity finally happened. I completed my quest for four wild sheep (aka Grand Slam or FNAWS) with a fine old Desert ram, guided by the well-known Hualapai guide Mario Bravo.

My son Seth married and eventually moved his wife and four kids to Rawlins, WY. As a Resident, his collection of points enabled him to draw a good Unit 1 sheep tag in 2019. We used nine horses and one mule with Josh Martoglio and Scott Kincheloe to get Seth's fine ram west of Cody, WY. As luck would have it, we awoke one frosty September morning and upon departing our teepees to round up horses, we discovered that three rams had grazed over the mountaintop above our 11,000 ft elevation spike camp. The rams were just over a quarter mile distant up the steep hillside but that was a chip shot for Seth with his 30-378 Weatherby. A single shot filled his tag and his dream bighorn sheep hunt became a simplified long horseback ride and comfortable camping trip, without lots of worn-out boot leather and blood, sweat, and tears common to most sheep hunting adventures.

Paul, as the older brother, actually had accumulated more preference points than Seth over the decades. However, being an Idaho resident, Paul knew that he would likely wait longer than Seth as a WY resident to draw a WY sheep tag. None of us anticipated the serious "Suck-

er-Punch" that WYGF delivered with their shocking 90/10 resident/nonresident tag allocation changes. Paul's two-plus decades of good-faith participation in their point system turned his "sure-thing" 24 preference points into a "Maybe-Never" heartbreak for a Rocky Mountain Bighorn tag. Only Government agencies can unilaterally breach such contractual agreements without massive Class-Action lawsuits. What to do? Bite the bullet and figure out how to squeeze the price of a Dall's sheep hunt into a modest family budget already stretched to the breaking point. With Alaska's current sheep outlook being uninviting, we reached out to various YK and NWT outfitters and booked Paul's 2023 Dall's sheep hunt with Mervyn's Yukon Outfitting based out of Whitehorse. Tim and Jen Mervyn were the answer to our prayers.

Paul flew out of Whitehorse with Tim in late July 2023 and was amazed at their comfortable remote base camp. A horse ride was followed by a long scouting hike the day before the season opened. On August 1st, Paul, Guide Joe, and assistant Anthony got the wind right, belly-crawled carefully to the ridge, identified the oldest and obvious lead ram, waited for him to clear, and sent a perfectly placed 250-yard shot. The remaining band of approximately three dozen rams, milled about in confusion, as wild sheep often do, awaiting guidance from their fallen leader. They eventually moved off as the humans approached. Paul was impressed with the good population of young rams in this area that will be solid shooters in the coming years. The future looks bright in this area of





the Yukon. Hats off to the Mervyns for conscientiously managing their resources.

Much has changed for would-be wild sheep hunters in the past several decades. Dad Scot first hunted sheep wearing military surplus wool pants, before cellphones or social media and prior to civilian access to GPS technology. During the 1990s, fully outfitted wild sheep hunts were available over-the-counter in AK and Canada for well under \$10K with nearly 100% success rates. The least expensive wild sheep hunts today are still for Dall's Sheep, but those hunts currently cost more than Desert sheep hunts had cost not long ago. And if your target is a Stone sheep hunt, you'll probably be seeing six-figure+ price tags in the not-too-distant future. "Do it sooner, rather than later" has never been more meaningful advice than when given to those aspiring to hunt wild sheep.

The Jenkins family has enjoyed a rich legacy of hunting including five generations of western outdoor adventures. A sizable crop of grandchildren is now admiring wild sheep mounts and dreaming of their own future experiences. They too hope to one day be able to hunt wild

sheep. With the solid efforts of WSE, SCI, GSCO, and other such fine conservation organizations, that future looks secure. Conscientious outfitters also team with successful conservation groups and Game and fish organizations to manage wildlife effectively for the future.

May we all keep dreaming, make sure our wind is right, and be sure to pass the torch!



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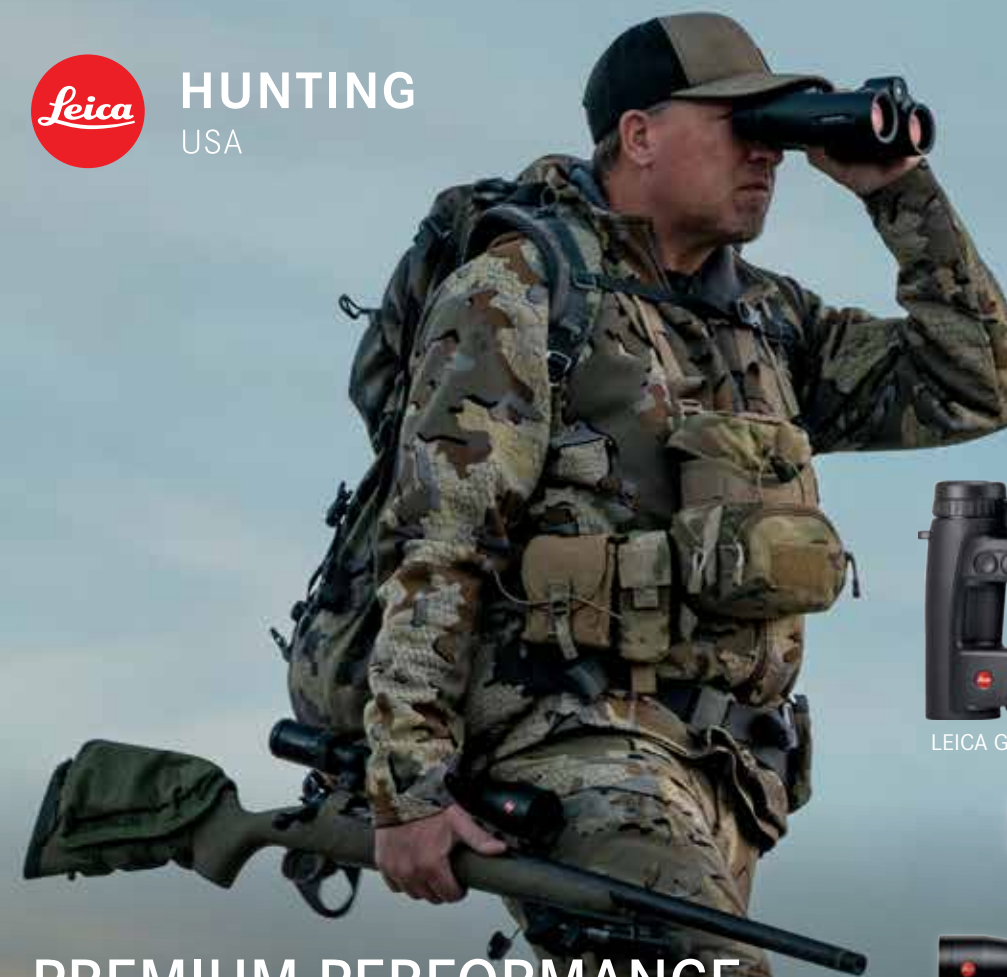
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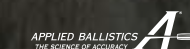
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## Youth Conservation Camp

The Idaho Wild Sheep Foundation awarded scholarships for two youth to attend the Idaho Conservation Officers Association, 2023 Mark Hill Memorial Youth Conservation Camp in August of this year. Camper's learn outdoor skills, become Certified in Hunter Education, and experience a wide variety of fun, outdoor activities.

These scholarships were made possible by the LLOYD OLDENBURG SCHOLARSHIP FUND.



Lloyd Oldenburg was a U.S. Air Force Korean War veteran and received Bachelors and Masters Degrees in Wildlife Management from South Dakota State University. He was a research biologist and regional wildlife manager for South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks where he assisted in bighorn transplanting to the Slim Buttes. He was a biologist for North Dakota Game and Fish Dept. where he participated in California bighorn transplants in that state. Lloyd worked for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game as a statewide Wildlife Research and State Wildlife Manager until his retirement in 1996. His interest and knowledge of bighorn sheep continued after his retirement where he worked for many years on the Idaho Wild Sheep Foundation board of directors to expand cooperative projects such as the Hells Canyon Initiative.

From the camper's-

Dear Idaho Wild Sheep Foundation,

Thank you for the great times at camp and offering me the opportunity to attend this summer. My two favorite things about camp were that you really had to work hard for the rewards, and the day we went rafting on the river. Again, thank you for everything. I want to go back again next summer!

Thanks,  
Oliver Young



Oaklee went to several summer camps this summer of 2023. The ICOA Youth Conservative Camp was his favorite camp of the year! He loved the structure of the camp including learning through work classes and target practice. He loved the free time that was allowed after the classes, and he loved the boys bunk and the comradery with the new friendships that were built. On top of it all, he left the camp with a new skill and the privilege to hunt! Best camp ever!

Oaklee Wright







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## By Edd S. Woslum

**L** aughing and joking, the hunt over, a troop of clients, trackers and PH's were leisurely strolling back to their waiting Land Rover. Without warning the most dreaded horror for any African tracker, or hunter, started and finished in milliseconds. Every experienced African dangerous game hunter, worthy of his keep, feels deep within his subconscious that he can steadfastly handle the bellowing charge of a wounded buffalo. If he doesn't feel that way, he shouldn't be out there in the first place.

Facing the blind unprovoked charge of a slobbering, grunting, and for reasons unknown enraged 1,800 pound, coal black menace, is indeed the stuff of what true night terrors are made. These eminent death episodes are never followed up with congratulatory high fives, nor the telling of ribald stories, nor toasts to the heroes. These horrifying events are more likely to be followed by an immediate change of linen, which is then followed, sometime later, with a large scotch held quietly with trembling hands. Such would be the exact case with my long-time hunting buddy and business associate, Randy Luth, exactly two years after he actually learned how to spell buffalo.

Randy, in addition to being a hunting fool, is founder, president and driving force behind the highly successful firearms manufacturing firm, DPMS. Randy and I had begun planning his 2003 African dangerous game safari at the previous year's SCI convention. Randy is a bird & mammal chasing, gun collecting maniac and the mere mention of a future hunting adventure shifts him into overdrive.

The following year, while taking a break from the booth at the NRA convention, Randy, without any preamble, suddenly blurted "You know I really need an elephant gun." He and I had hunted Africa together on two previous, extremely memorable occasions, but no mention had ever been made regarding the pursuit of *Loxodonta africana*. "What the Sam hell generated that?" I quietly asked. "Well, if you're going to hunt Africa beyond the sphere of impala and warthogs, you've gotta be ready for the biggest and meanest SOB out there." I couldn't disagree in the least.

Over the next three days, in between the pressing throngs of spectators, I tried to determine what my friend had in mind for a dangerous game rifle. "I think a 500 NE double gun would be perfect, or maybe a 416 Rigby built on a nice Mauser, that's really the way to go, or perhaps even a 404 Jeffery. Naw, what I really need is a 450." After two days of this nonsense, he finally came to his senses, and started talking about a more practical big game rifle, i.e., a .375 H&H built on a custom M70 type receiver, with a Krieger barrel, and an Obeche laminate wood stock. The metal and wood work would be enhanced by a classic African styled 1.5 to 5 Leupold scope. The gun turned out to be quite attractive and shot extremely well at all distances. Little did we know that 12 months hence, this very rifle would endure quite a different test at the micro distance of six feet, and there wouldn't even be enough time to get the safety off, much less get off a shot.

Randy's first dangerous game safari was scheduled for the month of July in the Dande region of the magnificent

Zambezi Valley. This is an exceptionally beautiful hunting destination that features a million-acre assemblage of springs, rivers, sandy beaches, and rolling wooded hills that, during the winter months, are cleaved with numerous dry river beds. This diverse topography provides food and shelter to numerous antelope species, plus elephant, buffalo, leopard and lion. This year, due to constraints on Randy's time, we were restricted to only seven days of hunting. We would spend this entire time hunting nothing but Syncerus, caffer caffer, the Cape Buffalo.

Our first day out, Ian Rutledge, a good friend and a very high longevity PH, plus Randy and I, cut the tracks of several old dugga boys. However, each time Paul and Willie, our two Makorekore trackers, got on the spoor all went well for a while, but

when we got close to our targeted critters they invariably managed to disappear into the thick bush. These little spooring exercises weren't quite like a sheep hunt, but the terrain was rather steep and covered with thick patches of mopane, plus various other species of African flora. Often our prey would use the many available dry creek beds for an escape route. These extremely rugged sand and rock-type animal freeways, with the sun bouncing off the boulders, were hotter than hades itself. Usually, the Zambezi Valley in July is cool and pleasant; however, for the past eight days the mid-day temperatures had jumped into the 85-90-degree (F) category. These combined issues made for extremely tough hunting.

About 1 pm we took a tea break and got out of the heat, but by two pm "Ole Jump Start" Luth was running in place and hollering something or another about some Barnes X's that needed to be liberated. OK!!! OK!!! Off we go again checking the roads for spoor. It was deathly quiet as we cruised along, but nothing in the world will break your day dreaming reveries faster than your tracker hissing softly...Nyati! Now that got my undivided attention! Ian, Randy and Willie all spotted the 1,000 yard distant black globs at about the same time. We were

now back in the previously described hill country and a quite approach was mandatory. Ian quickly cut the power on the little four banger diesel, and then free wheeled it down the slope for about half a mile. Now this is what you came 12,000 miles for. Suddenly your skin turns all prickly and your consciousness goes into warp drive as the team exits the cruiser and begin a stooped over stalk from tree to tree; all senses on full alert! Your able guide and trackers are leading the way, the PH with his rifle and shooting sticks, the tracker shaking his ash bag at every step. Your heart is thumping like a John Deere diesel and your thinking: "Feet, don't fail me now!"

Paul, who is our tribal council representative, and I were following the hunters at a discreet distance. After an hour of duck walking and butt scooting, we still couldn't see

the beasts. It appeared to Paul and me as if Ian and his group had actually caught up to the buffalo several times, but after some preliminary posturing they folded up the sticks and off they went again into the bush. I'm not sure which was more difficult, tracking the dugga boys, or tracking Ian and Randy, but several times Paul and I managed to lose them both.



Dr. Don Trawick with his first ever Southern Buffalo

With about 30 short minutes before sun down, Paul & I

caught up with the troop just in time to see Ian slam the shooting sticks in the dirt as Randy moved quickly into shooting position and looked ready to do business. We had a great view of Randy, but that was absolutely all we could see. It then became obvious that the main herd was again moving off in their never-ending quest for fresh grazing. Just as Ian again prepared to fold the five-foot-long shooting aids, out of the corner of my eye, and out of sight of either Ian or Randy, I spotted a quite large gnarly old bull staring very intently at us. He was approximately 100 yards to my right and looking as if he was about ready to leave town. Several times I tried to get Randy's attention by the customary finger snapping accompanied by a low volume whistle. No chance. These two guys were honed in on what was in front of them and weren't hearing me at all. Unexpectedly, Paul let out



with an incredibly loud imitation of a buffalo grunt. This noise, coming from behind them, rapidly got their heads turned the 90 degrees required to finally look at us. As both PH and client stared our way, I made the time-honored, two-handed sign indicating that a jolly good, 38 inch, helmet headed specimen of a Southern Africa buffalo was just to their right and needed shooting in the worst possible way.

A 25-yard sprint with the sticks was immediately followed by the roar of the .375. Five seconds later, another .300 grainer followed down range. By the secondary thump it was obvious that both shots connected. It was whooping, hollering and picture taking time.

We were quite a jubilant band of hunters and trackers, right up to the point that someone squashed our spirits by reminding us that 1,800 pounds of buffalo meat couldn't very well get back to camp on its own.

The next day it was decided that I had right well better get out of the spectator mode and into the keenly focused role of a switched-on shooter. By 11 am of my first day hunting, we had tracked several old Dugga boys for about 2-3 hours, but nothing panned out. Like so often happens in hunting, you walk, climb and track for hours, then when you're at the lowest level of your personal alert scale, wham, the moment is upon you and it's over within micro seconds.

It had been a hot, dry and fruitless day of tracking. As we cruised back to camp, we all sat quietly as visions of cold Bollies danced in our head. Once again Paul's magic words broke the silence - Nyati (buffalo). Fatigue suddenly gone, all senses are back up to red line and the adrenaline is pumping at about 180 PSI. Where? What? How far, etc., etc. Paul slowly raised his arm and pointed. Holy smoke, he's only 400 yards off the road. Again, we did the 200-yard stealth mode coast with the Land Rover. Now we're down off the rig. Ian and I are sprinting tree to tree, temples pounding. Sticks are quickly deployed and in place. The "twice barreled" .400 Tembo just sort of automatically did its thing. A left, then a right and two .350 gr. Barnes X's are whistling down range.....it's Bollinger's time again.

Now I've never been the lucky guy. I'm never the one with the biggest fish or the widest buck, or the biggest anything, but man did I make up for it with this guy. As we were walking up on the bull, I wasn't the only awestruck person; Anglo and Bantu were also in awe. I have never been one to put any sort of minimum standard on any type of trophy, but depending on the area, a 38" to 40-inch, heavy bossed buffalo equals pretty



Indiana hunter Nate Higgins with Dugga Boy we tracked for severeral days.



4 very talented Makorekore trackers. Paul, Terrence, Sonnyboy and Samual.

good braggin rights. This guy, that day, was a full 44" and looked sort of like a black pickup truck with horns. He was so oversized that Ian, even after loading several hundred buffalo in his career, stated, "this ole boy won't go." As a final solution, we winched the back 2/3's of his huge body onto the rig and the remaining 1/3 of neck, head and horns were lashed round with ropes & tied up over the top to keep it from banging in the dirt. Going back to camp we made one extremely interesting sight; two of us in front with one ton of awesome buffalo in back, plus two trackers sitting atop the beast.

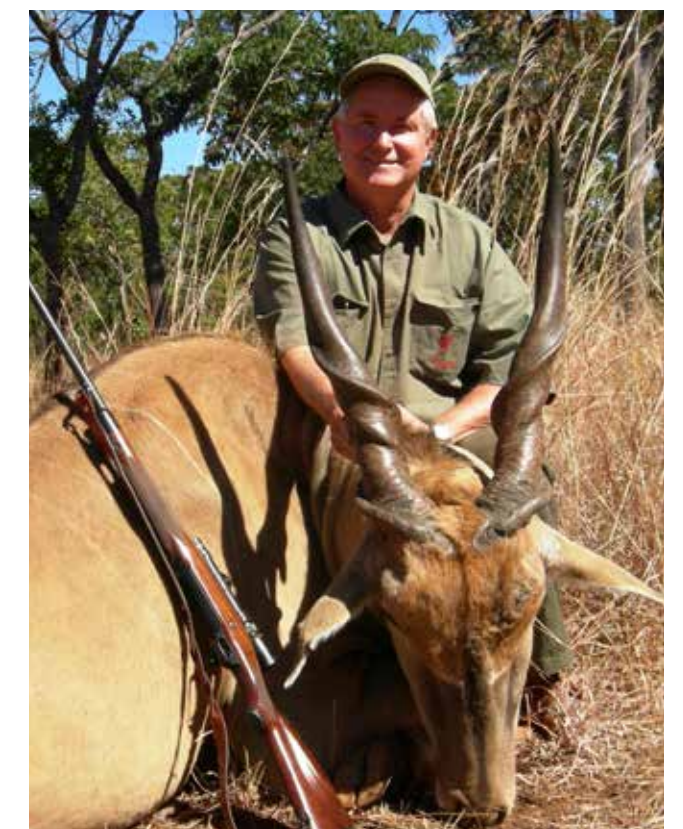
After our late arrival back at camp, and of course the obligatory ale, plus a sumptuous meal in our bellies, we thought a bit of a "sleep in" was in order the next morning. A pride of lions, however, had three days previous, decided that our camp was a great place for them to spend a little R&R. This night I guess they thought they should be a part of our celebration, as they were moaning, coughing and grunting till the very wee hours. I've never become very expert on the large felines, therefore have no clue as to what the various vocalizations mean. Some say it's mostly love sick adolescents making all the noise. Others say its adults relaying their amorous intentions to any female who may have a reciprocal arrangement in mind. Personally, I'm convinced its merely feline indigestion, but whatever it is, when they crank up the amperage on their boom box, right outside your tent, you definitely sleep lightly.

As this area has a goodly supply of Chobe bushbuck, we decided that a jaunt after one of these beautiful antelope, with its majestic war paint, was very much in order. In the late p.m., the day after my buffalo, we had hunted for about four hours and no animals were sighted. It had been merely a long hot tracking and looking excursion. Ian and Randy decided that the contents of the cooler box back at the rig was much more tempting than another hour in the bush. Therefore, rather than returning via the circuitous route from whence they came, they decided that a line drive back to the rig was the wisdom of the moment.

It's the end of the day, the sunset is beautiful, the air is cool and pleasant, and a dripping cold ale is only minutes away. Randy has just turned and exchanged a quip with his tracker when the bellow of an enraged buffalo bull broke the tranquility of the moment. The sound alone is terrifying, but in addition to the bellowing, there is now a much more menacing sound as nearly 2,000 pounds of

horned menace pounds the dirt straight at Bwana Luth. As the demented creature is a mere 10 feet away at the start of the attack, he was able to close the distance to Randy in a nano second. Randy rapidly turns toward the danger and in one motion unslings his .375. As the business end comes into his hand, he gropes for the safety; too late, as a huge black head with over three feet of deadly horn, is already on top of him. In less than five seconds the skirmish has degenerated from that of a possible gun fight to that of a hand-to-hand struggle with a near ton bovine that's dead set on killing you.

Randy has now become the sole focus of the insane beast. He only has time to thrust the rifle in front of him in order to try deflecting part of the bone jarring blow that is coming at the speed of heat. One would be just about as successful throwing rocks at a tidal wave. The impact jars every part of his body as the rifle flies though the air, into the bush. Four dumbstruck people can only watch helplessly. Man, and beast are much too close for a shot from any direction. Randy has now been flipped backwards into the thorn bush, but has fortuitously landed just inches behind a small Mopane tree.



Dr. Don Trawick with a very nice eland taken in the Zimbabwe midlands. Please note the rifle, a pre 64 Win Mod 70, Super Grade in .375 H & H.,



The bull is now enraged beyond belief. His motions are swift and overpowering as he rocks backwards, gains momentum and again charges. The only object separating our friend's life from death is now the 6-inch Mopane tree.

Three times the bull gathers his strength and lunges head on at our fallen hero. Three times the enchanted tree repels the blow. Frustrated and near exhaustion, the bull makes one final assault, but as he approaches the tree, rather than lunging head on, he suddenly swerves to miss the obstacle, and just as swiftly hooks his huge right horn at his new found enemy. The horn misses' flesh, but catches the corner of Randy's loose shirt. Dejected, and unable to deal with his repeated failures, the defeated bull turns tail, and disappears.

Four stunned and speechless observers, together with

one battered victim, are motionless for what seems like hours. No one can believe it. Even after the 20th retelling it all seems unreal, as if it all was merely the play out of an overdone video. All except Randy, who with the cuts and bruises on his body, plus the gauged wood and scarred metal of his beautiful rifle, make it all very real indeed.

Is this the end of the story? Well, it very well could be, but I would be leaving off a very significant part of this African adventure. Randy is young, tough, and perhaps just a little deranged. Cuts, bruises and even a few night terrors could not dissuade him from enjoying every minute of his Zambezi Valley experience. The very next day, he was right back in the bush and ready to push on with the hunt.

Two weeks later, Randy had returned to Minnesota and I

was with two more clients in South Africa. What a change in both climate and topography. We had gone wheels in the air, from the Dande bush strip at 0930, while enjoying a mild 78 degrees (F). It is now 1330 and we are cruising the South African bushveld in a frigid 45 degree (F) foggy drizzle. My granddad used to call this pneumonia weather. The game, however, paid no heed as the bush was lush with critters.

In closing, I would like to say a bit more about our primary buffalo area. We get more phone calls on the subject of Zimbabwe than we do on any other three topics in aggregate, i.e., "Is it safe? Is the country in shambles?" etc., etc. I love southern Africa, but Zimbabwe, without a doubt, is my favorite destination in the whole world. Its wildlife is among the most diverse on the planet, the landscape, flora and fauna is truly breathtaking, but even beyond all these amazing features, its most outstanding attribute is the courage, will, determination and spirit of

the people.

This nation, in 1974, was one of the most prosperous and progressive countries in the world. I won't go into the detailed politics of the almost 30-year decline into abject poverty, but I will say that these issues aren't as simple as some world commentators would lead you to believe. The problems that beset this country do not differentiate between black & white. They are multi-racial and inter-tribal and they affect every culture, Shona, Ndebele, Venda, and Anglo, alike.

During the countries 20-year civil war, one of the most celebrated fighting forces of all time was formed. The Selous Scouts was a company sized, multi-racial fighting force of highly motivated Rhodesians. In 1976 this unit adopted a Shona saying as the company motto. I believe it reflects the will and spirit of all Zimbabweans today; Pamwe Chete.....Stand Together.



Dr. Don with gnu plus author, wife Leanne, granddaughter Ashlei and, Trackers Terry and Masimba

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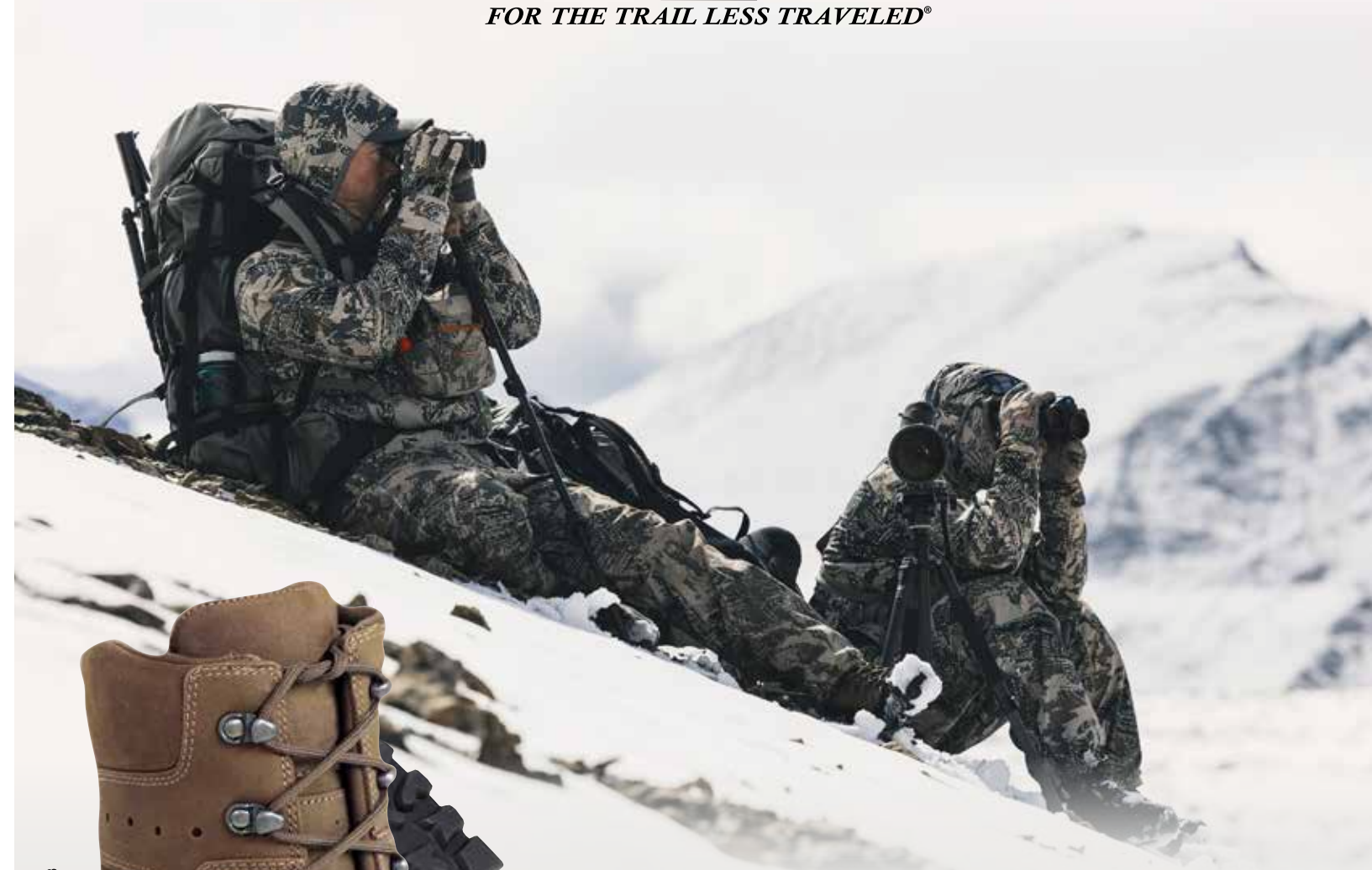
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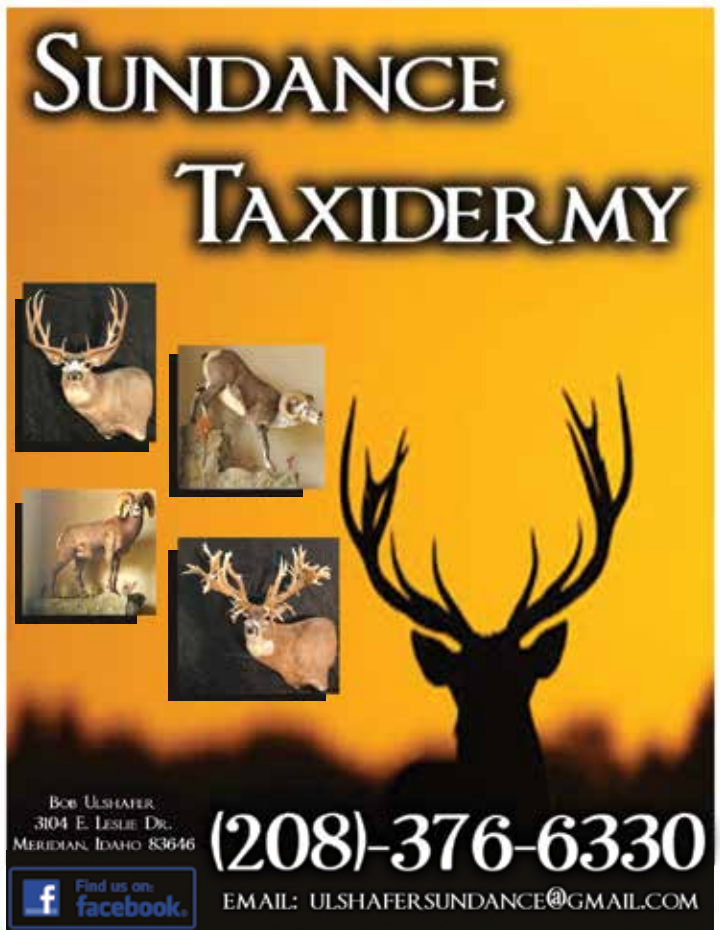
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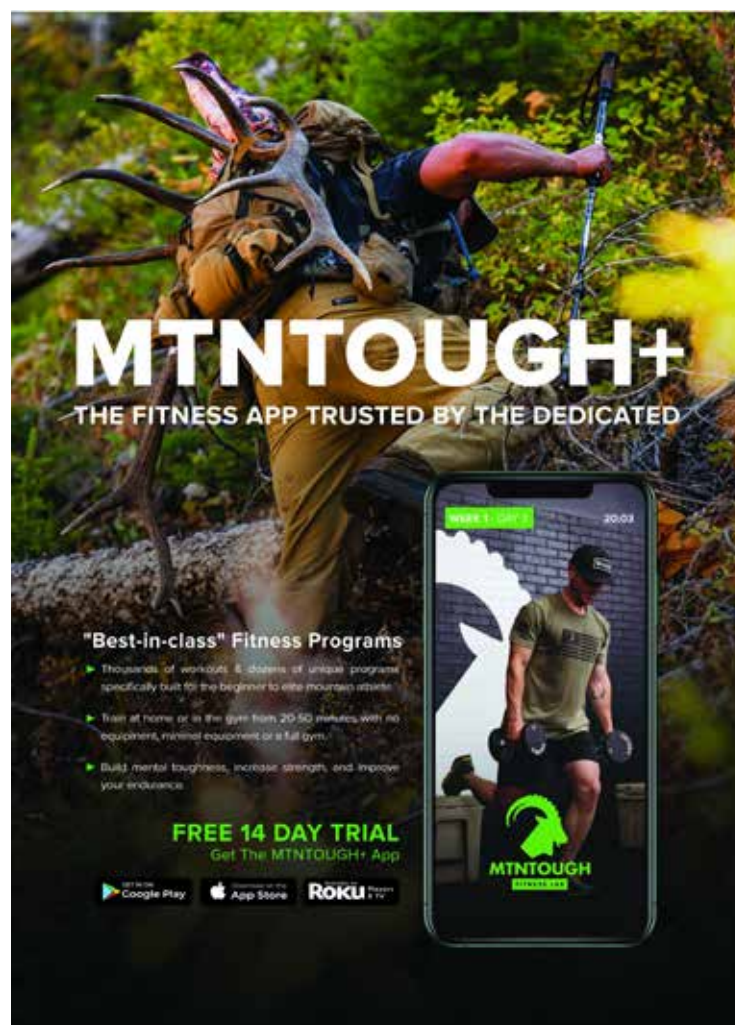
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**As Told by Grandpa Scot Jenkins:**

Seth Jenkins' second daughter Payton is a petite dainty little song and dance princess. She has a big compassionate heart and LOVES animals. She spends a lot of time at home in Rawlins, WY snuggling with the family's chickens and Guinea pigs.

Congrats to proud Dad and Payton on her very respectable antelope buck. It was an excellent and memorable father-daughter adventure.

The latest generation of the Jenkins family is now totally enjoying the Western outdoor adventure heritage.

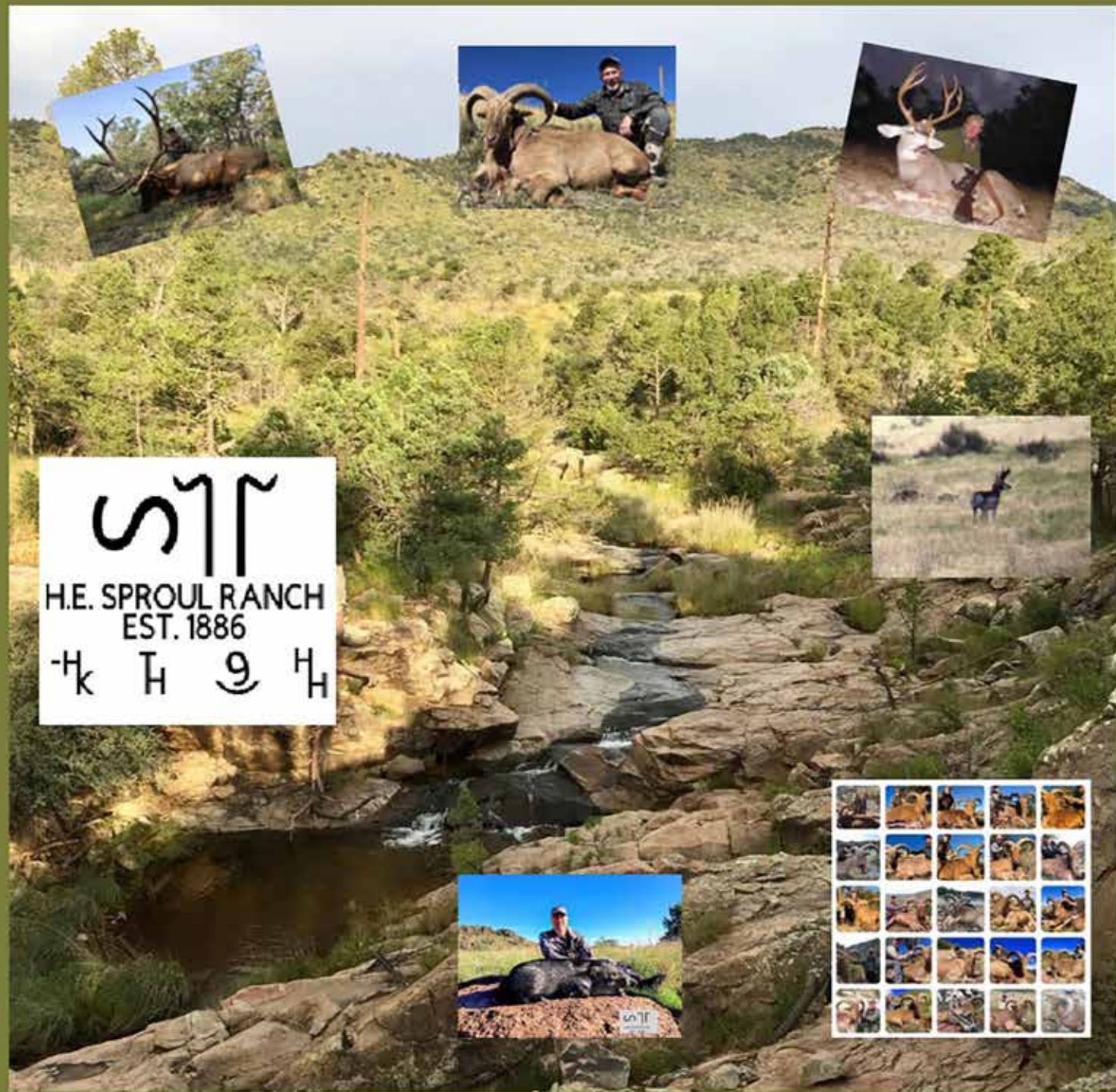
We were not certain, based on her gentle temperament, whether she would embrace an interest in hunting or outdoor activities like her older sister and other family members. However, she surprised us all and came through taking her first antelope buck on October 3rd, 2023 at the age of 12 hunting south of Gillette Wyoming.

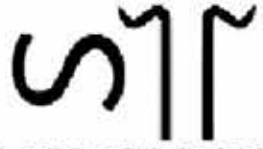
- School pic Aug 2021 Payton at left with younger sis Naomi at right.

- An AR with the adjustable stock was the rifle best-suited for lightweight young Payton. Older sister Aizlee had used a 243 for her deer and antelope.







  
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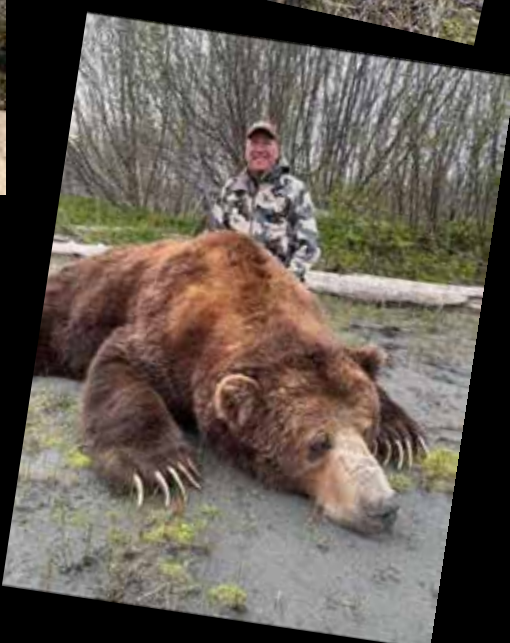
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## NOMINATIONS FOR THE IDAHO WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS ARE BEING ACCEPTED

The deadline for nominations is January 31st, 2024.  
Nominations may be mailed to P.O. Box 8224, Boise, 83707  
or emailed to [info@idahowildsheep.org](mailto:info@idahowildsheep.org)

Idaho WSF Bylaws state:  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

### Section II Election and Term of the Board of Directors

Each Director shall be elected for a term of two (2) years, with half of the board being elected each year for staggered terms.

Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM MST. Board members may attend meetings in person or by Zoom video call.

Participation in one or more of the following committee's: Banquet, Fundraising, Conservation, Marketing/ Membership, Social Media/Website, Lottery, and Journal.

Board members must abide by the Idaho WSF board member code of ethics.

For copies of the bylaws and code of ethics, please contact the Idaho WSF office at 345-6171.

I would like to nominate \_\_\_\_\_  
for the Idaho Wild Sheep Foundation Board of Directors.

(Please feel free to copy this form and nominate as many people as you would like. Self-nominations are also encouraged)

PLEASE ENCLOSE A BIO OF THE NOMINEE FOR THE BALLOT!

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# IDAHO WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION

## ENDOWMENT FUND

BY MICHAEL KEADY

Last year the Idaho Wild Sheep Foundation rolled out our endowment and now we are working on generating donations in order to ensure future generations are able to experience and enjoy wild sheep across the state of Idaho. Idaho WSF has experienced tremendous growth and looks to continue supporting conservation efforts and the endowment is one of our tools to be able to do so. The endowment fund is invested and then the returns are used on an annual basis for conservation. The larger the fund, the higher the potential returns, the more money going towards wild sheep conservation.

Whether you are looking to donate for yourself, for somebody as a gift this holiday season, or take advantage of the tax benefits Idaho WSF is grateful for any and all contributions.

There are multiple ways to donate:

- IRA Charitable donations
- Cash, Savings, CDs, and Money Market Accounts
- Brokerage Accounts, land, rental property, home, deeds of trust, etc.
- Retirement Accounts (Ex: at age 70.5+ you can give up to \$100k from IRA to a charity tax free)
- Life Insurance (Existing Policies, New Policies, Beneficiary Designation)

There are many different ways to donate and Idaho WSF is happy to help figure out what may work best for you. Contact the office at 208-345-6171 or email [info@idahowildsheep.org](mailto:info@idahowildsheep.org) to set up a meeting or, for more information.



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## IS THIS YOUR LAST ISSUE?

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP WILL EXPIRE DECEMBER 31ST**

*\*New member's who joined within the last 3 months expire December 31, 2024.*

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Join, renew, upgrade now and be entered into the MEMBER'S ONLY raffle for your choice of a:

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- British Columbia **MOUNTAIN GOAT HUNT** with Golden Bear Outfitting or,
- Mexico **MULE DEER HUNT** with HR Big Game Outfitters. See member promo on page 15.

ALL Life and Centennial members will be entered into a drawing for a **FREE RANGE TROPHY DESERT SHEEP HUNT** with Rancho La Guarida and, a **LIFE SIZE SHEEP MOUNT WITH BRUSH COUNTRY STUDIOS**. There is no cost to enter but, you must register for banquet and you must be present at the time of the drawing to win. See Life member hunt on page 19.

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- HUNTING STORIES
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- HUNTING TIPS
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If you need help writing your article, please let us know. We are here to help.

The story chosen for the cover will receive a KRYPTTEK Altitude Bora vest donated by KRYPTTEK with embroidered Idaho WSF logo. Journal submittals and cover contest is open to all members. Not a member? Join now at [www.idahowildsheep.org](http://www.idahowildsheep.org)

**TIPS:**

- Set your phone/camera to HIGH QUALITY
- Cover photo pictures must be portrait (vertical) orientation
- Be creative! Cover photo’s do not have to be trophy shots.
- Include pictures of your experience, friends, scenery, camp, etc.

**DEADLINES:**

Winter issue: October 31st

Summer issue: April 30th

Email [info@idahowildsheep.org](mailto:info@idahowildsheep.org)

*Thank you*







# WHAT'S COOKING?

## SPICY MOUNTAIN SHEEP

### Ingredients

Sheep meat  
3 to 4 tablespoons of flour  
one or two chopped onions  
¾ teaspoon of curry powder  
Salt to taste  
1 or 2 teaspoons of fresh lemon juice

### Instructions

Place a frying pan on the stove and heat it. Add a little bit of oil. Cut the sheep meat into small one-inch cubes and after washing place them in the pan, keep turning the meat cubes with a wooden spoon till they are brown in color. The browned meat cubes should then be removed and placed in a separate bowl. Add the flour to the pan and stir well, add curry powder, salt, chopped onions, pepper and beef base. Stir lightly and bring the mixture to boil slowly. Once the mixture has started boiling add the meat cubes back in the pan and reduce the flame to simmer and allow it to cook, add 2 teaspoons of fresh lemon juice to the mixture and let the meat cubes cook till they are tender.

Serve with steamed rice.

## BARBECUED SHEEP CHOPS

### Ingredients

20 Neatly cut chops  
6 to 8 ounce of Beer  
2 large onions  
Butter  
3 ounce of Garlic

### Instructions

Take aluminum foil and fold the sides up. Place the foil with the sides folded up on the hot grill, the sides have to be folded so that the juices do not runoff. Washed and cleaned chops are placed on the foil. Add eight ounces of beer along with finely chopped onion and about four pats of butter. Sprinkle garlic and salt on the chops and keep turning them till the chops get cooked well. When the chops appear to be done remove the foil from the grill and place the chops directly over the grill, once placed on the grill keep turning the chops frequently and sprinkle with garlic salt every time you turn it; keep doing this till the chops turn charcoal black. Now your barbecued sheep chops are ready to serve.

Have a recipe? Email us at [info@idahowildsheep.org](mailto:info@idahowildsheep.org)

Include pictures camping, campfires and cooking if you have them.

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# MEMBER PICTURES



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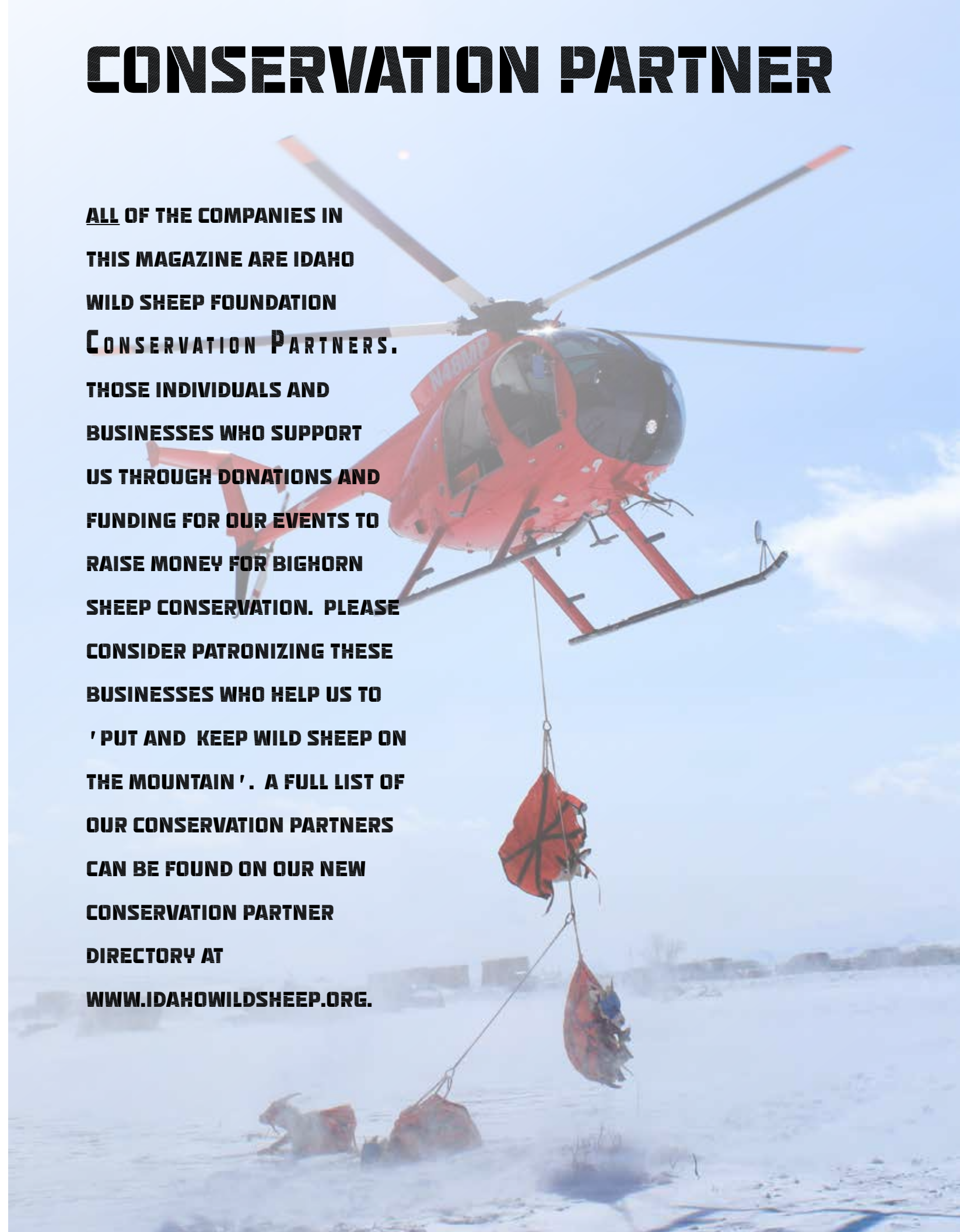
(2) Full page ads or, a two-page spread in two issues of the Idaho WSF magazine.

Levels listed are based on cash or, value of donation. Donations of any size are accepted, nothing is too small.

Contact the office at 208-345-6171 or, email [info@idahowildsheep.org](mailto:info@idahowildsheep.org) for more detail or to speak with a board member. .

# CONSERVATION PARTNER

**ALL OF THE COMPANIES IN THIS MAGAZINE ARE IDAHO WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION CONSERVATION PARTNERS. THOSE INDIVIDUALS AND BUSINESSES WHO SUPPORT US THROUGH DONATIONS AND FUNDING FOR OUR EVENTS TO RAISE MONEY FOR BIGHORN SHEEP CONSERVATION. PLEASE CONSIDER PATRONIZING THESE BUSINESSES WHO HELP US TO ' PUT AND KEEP WILD SHEEP ON THE MOUNTAIN ' . A FULL LIST OF OUR CONSERVATION PARTNERS CAN BE FOUND ON OUR NEW CONSERVATION PARTNER DIRECTORY AT [WWW.IDAHOWILDSHEEP.ORG](http://WWW.IDAHOWILDSHEEP.ORG).**







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Photo by Tessa Fowler



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