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# NBU

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## JOURNAL

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## Letter from the Editor



years when the birds were plentiful, the faint chuckle of a bird in the distance that gets my heart rate up, the look the dogs give me when they realize that it's game time, and the warm feeling in my heart when they give me that look while licking my face almost as if they could speak and tell me "thank you for taking me bird hunting!". Fast forward about 3 hours into that day and I may have a different take on it as I'm breathing heavy climbing a mountain while cursing under my breath. Everyone has their favorites days and I think many of you would choose a fall or winter hunting day!

NBU is proud to help make those memories with you. Our directors are taking some time off and enjoying hunting season. Guzzler season has wrapped up, and banquet season will begin in a few short months. Several events occurred

this summer such as guzzler builds and fencing projects, Gold Ram barbecues, Ewes Bingo and Clothing Giveaway, and the Maison T Ortiz Youth Outdoor Skills Camp. Stay tuned for more fun events in the future and enjoy your hunts. Please keep NBU in mind for future journal stories and pictures. The more the readers participate, the better the journal will be! Thank you all!

Lydia Teel

Cover Photo by Scott Warner



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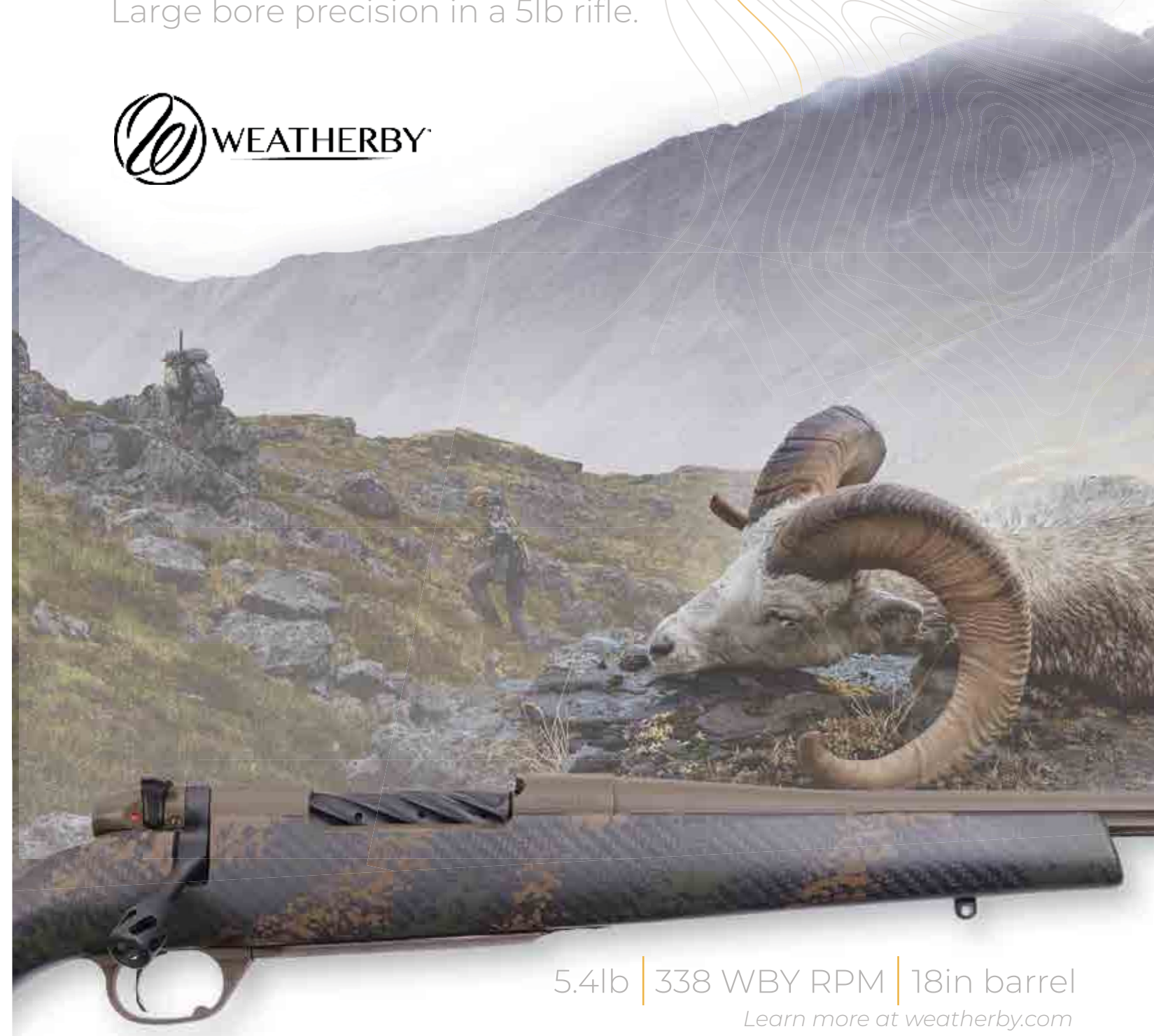
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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**W**ow! Almost the end of another year. Hunting season is in full swing. Hopefully you were able to enjoy some time hunting with friends and family. Fill that freezer full of meat!

How much did you contribute to conservation in wildlife this year? Did you purchase a hunting and fishing license? Waterfowl and upland stamps? Did you donate your time to engage youth in the outdoors? Did you teach them about managing wildlife and what wildlife conservation means to you? Make it a goal to be proactive in supporting our wildlife and public lands. Our stewardship is important to make our state great!

As our new year begins, we will also head into a legislative session in Carson City. There will always be topics that affect sportsmen and conservation in Nevada. Stay engaged in what is going on in our state. If we do not engage now, we will lose a lot of the freedoms and access that we love. Nevada is unique and we should all do our part to keep it that way.

Fall is my favorite time of year in Nevada. The weather is much more tolerable and there is A LOT going on. I love this time of year for hunting opportunities as well as college football and professional football season. Remember to get out and enjoy yourself whatever your pursuits are. Be engaged and enjoy what our great state has to offer.

Send us your pictures. We are excited to share them in our future journals!

Evan A McQuirk, DVM  
 President, Nevada Bighorns Unlimited



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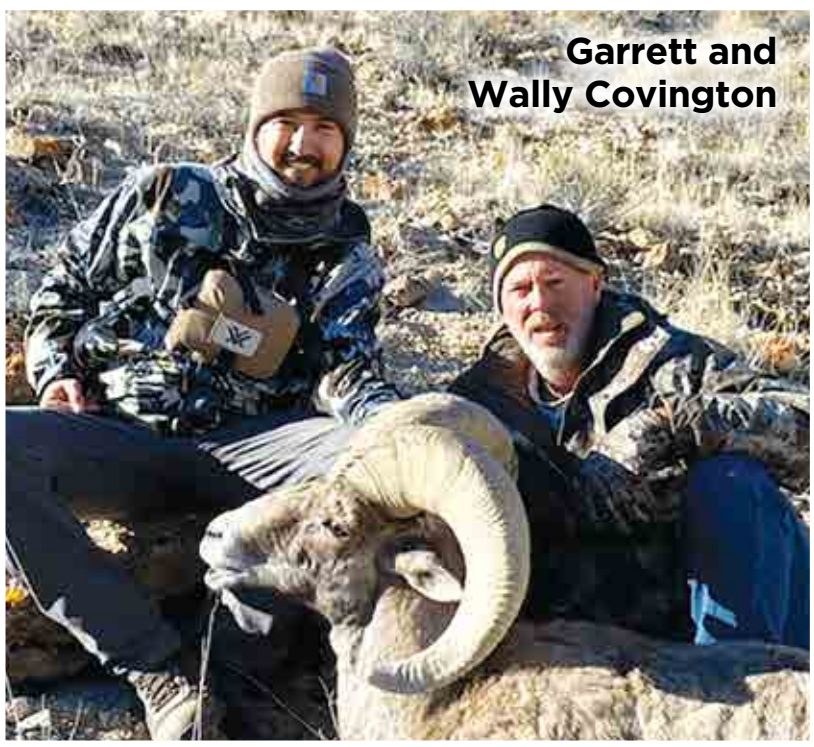
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# IN THE FIELD

Editor's Note: Please feel free to email us a picture of you in your NBU gear for the journal. Emails can be sent to [bighornsjournal@gmail.com](mailto:bighornsjournal@gmail.com).

**Garrett and Wally Covington**



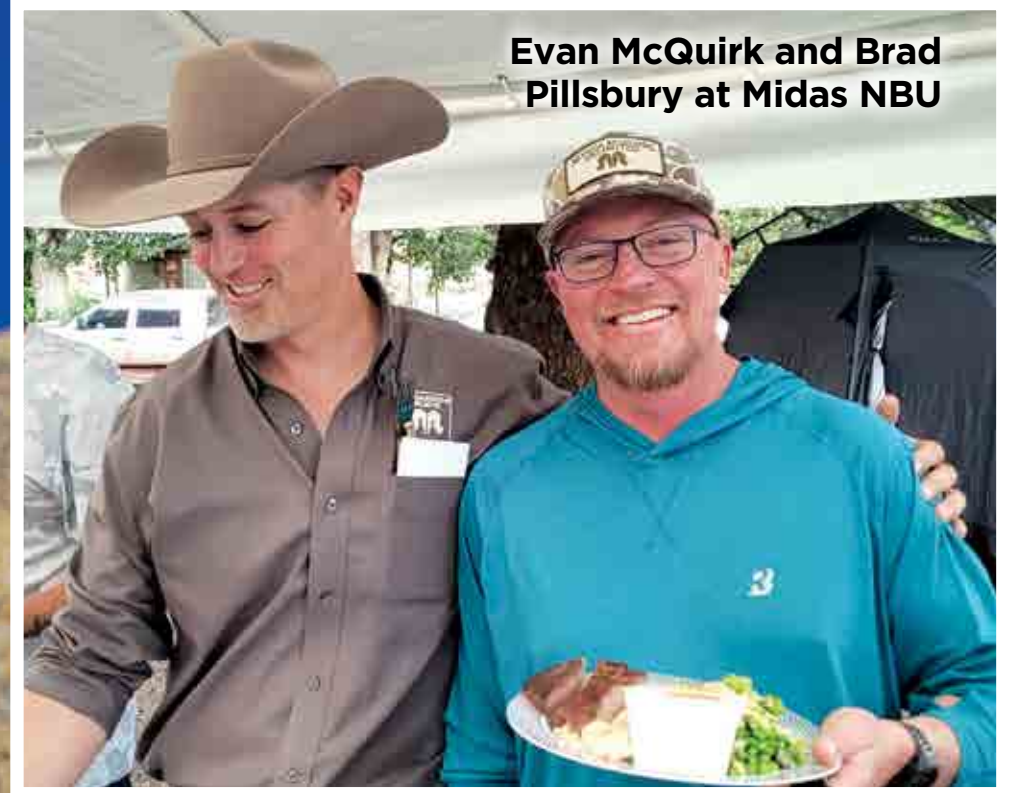
**Alex Gerhardt**



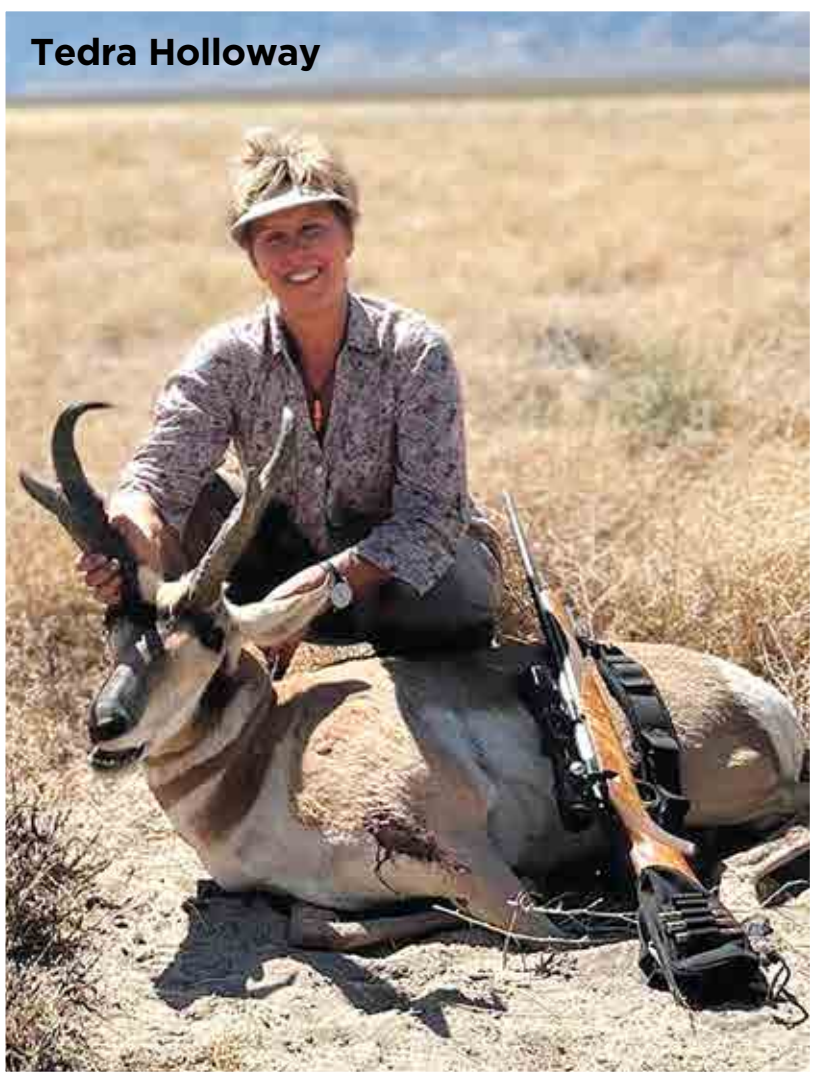
**John Carlson**



**Evan McQuirk and Brad Pillsbury at Midas NBU**



**Tedra Holloway**



**David Nelson**



**Midas NBU Poker Run**





# GUZZLER PROJECTS

By Steve (Rocky) Hall

## North and South Steptoe Guzzlers-Schell Creek Range

The turnout for the North and South Steptoe Valley guzzlers was impressive with two guzzlers completed. One hundred two names were noted during the course of construction. Participants included NDOW personnel and NBU volunteers travelling from Reno, Sparks, Fallon, Battle Mountain, Ely, Elko, Winnemucca, Eureka, Wellington and Utah.



The North Steptoe guzzler was constructed under the guidance of Sam Hughes (NDOW) and Pat Reichman (NBU-Reno) consisting of a 40' x 54' apron, four storage tanks, a drinker and fencing. Forty five people helped with the construction of this guzzler. The South Steptoe guzzler consists of a 54' x 60' apron, five storage tanks, a drinker and fencing. Kenny Pirkle (NDOW) supervised this project. Both guzzlers were filled to capacity with water by fully donated labor, fuel and use of a water truck by O'Flaherty Plumbing and Heating in Ely. Fifty seven people helped with the construction of the South Steptoe guzzler.



Meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner/Friday, Saturday and Sunday) were provided by a combined effort/donation from Elko Bighorns Unlimited, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (Elko Chapter), NV Energy and Fallon NBU. After dinner on



Saturday evening, a raffle was conducted. Six guns donated by NBU-Reno and two guns donated by Elko Bighorns Unlimited were won by various volunteers. Due to the generosity of Elko Bighorns Unlimited, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation-Elko Chapter and NBU-Reno, every volunteer won a raffle prize. In addition to guns, the raffle prizes consisted of numerous hats, drink cups, t-shirts and ice chests.

The North Steptoe guzzler dedication rights were purchased during the Elko Bighorns Unlimited banquet by the Shane and Angel Edgar family from Battle Mountain. Their dedication sign reads:

*Open Bar #2  
Dedicated to George Penola  
1942-2016  
Loving father, husband, grandfather and friend  
Thank you for your support of Nevada wildlife*



The 2024 NDOW/NBU guzzler projects summarized as follows:  
March 16th- Toulon #2, Trinity Range - Pershing County, 80 participants  
April 27th- South Rail, Sand Springs Range - Churchill County, 227 participants  
May 18th- Seven Troughs Range - Pershing County, 49 participants  
June 1st- Soldier Meadow - Washoe County, 35 participants  
June 29th- Steptoe Valley - Schell Creek range - White Pine County, 102 participants (two guzzlers/one weekend)  
Total: six new guzzlers constructed.

**NBU would like to thank everyone for their help with the very successful 2024 guzzler projects!**



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# GOLD RAM BBQ EVENT 2024

The goal of NBU has always been to **“Put and Keep Wild Sheep on the Mountain”** and at the same time **“Do What is Right for All Wildlife in Nevada”**.



The latest Gold Ram Barbecue was hosted by inductee Chad Humason and it was a wonderful event. Chad and Jenny hosted the event at their Hidden Valley home at the end of July. Good food, many laughs and memories made rounded out a great evening. Many thanks to all the folks who contributed to make this dinner a success.

Chad Humason was recognized after dinner as NBU Gold Ram Member No. 133.

Thank you Chad for your contribution to Nevada's Wildlife.



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# COMMISSION MEETING RECAP

## JUNE 2024 MEETING - LOVELOCK

The June Commission meeting was held in Lovelock and was the standard two day meeting format. This was Commissioner Alana Wise's last meeting as a Commissioner. She was appointed in 2021 to represent the General Public. Thank you, Commissioner Wise, for your contribution to Nevada's wildlife over the past several years.

### Bighorn Sheep Waiting Periods

At the May meeting, the Tag Allocation and Application Hunt Committee (TAAHC) proposed a once in a lifetime change to the waiting period for all bighorn sheep species and mountain goat. There was pushback, but the consensus was to take it back to the TAAHC to further investigate. The TAAHC met in June and are looking into other options with bonus points and will continue the discussion at the committee level.

### Big Game Release Plan

The previously approved big game release plan had Desert and California Bighorn and Mountain Goat augmentation and reintroduction details. An amendment was introduced to the Commission to allow for three antelope augmentations. There are several areas within the state including area 6, area 14-15 and units 043-046 that have seen promising population numbers. Other areas of the state have historically suffered. Some of these areas have seen habitat improvements following wild horse gathers and two exceptional precipitation years. The augmentation plan will augment herds in unit 012 (Calico Mountains/Black Rock), units 102,104,108,131 and 134 (Long Valley, Butte Valley, So. Ruby Valley, Jakes Valley and possibly Railroad Valley) and units 161-164 (Stone Cabin, Little Fish Lake, Monitor Valleys). NDOW has had good success performing antelope augmentations with many units doing well following such projects. This was passed by the Commission and will likely occur in 2024 under the right conditions.

### Smith Creek Reservoir Closed

In 2009, when the Smith Creek Ranch was under a different management direction, the owners of the ranch approached NDOW with the proposal to develop the reservoir into a fishery which meets the needs of the fishing public while not placing a burden on the ranch operations. Unfortunately, since that time, it has been realized that development of a fishery in the reservoir is challenging due to a number of factors and negotiations to work jointly with the landowner failed. There has been ongoing frustration about the impacts to ranch operations including continual trespassing by the public attempting to drive through the ranch property to access the reservoir, as well as the public crossing from BLM land to posted private property to fish the reservoir. In addition to this, the reservoir is no longer stocked by the owner or NDOW. Following the Commission June meeting, NDOW has designated Smith Creek Reservoir as a Closed Water in the Lander County fishing regulation (CR23-15).

### Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp

With the passage of the Duck Stamp Modernization Act of 2023, the Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp will now be good electronically from the date of purchase through the following June. Physical stamps will not be mailed out to customers until March after the waterfowl seasons have closed.

### Chukar and Hungarian Partridge

The previously combined chukar/Hungarian (Gray) partridge seasons have been split into separate hunts. Limits will no longer be considered in the aggregate. Nevada is the last western state to have an aggregate limit. The daily and possession limit for chukar will remain at 6 and 18 respectively while the limits for Hungarian (Gray) partridge will now be 4 and 12.

These limits are also reflected in the youth seasons as well. Both seasons are set for October 12, 2024 - February 2, 2025. Youth seasons will extend for their normal 9-day period (e.g. September 28 - October 6th, 2024).

There was some apprehension by CAB members to separating the seasons out. There was also comment from Commissioners and CAB members to somehow avoid mule deer rifle opener overlapping with the last weekend of youth chukar. This will continue to be a discussion in the future, but ultimately, the proposed change was approved by the Commission.



### Sage Grouse

There is now a 9-day season in certain hunt units in Elko County (062, 064, 067, 071-076, 101 and 102) and in Eureka, Lander and Nye Counties (161, 162, 172 and 173), with a daily limit of 2 and possession limit of 2.

The Wildlife Commission has approved a two-day season for hunt units 012 and 013 in western Nevada and hunt units 031 and 051 in north central Nevada, with a daily and possession limit of 2 sage-grouse. These units, or groups of units, have sage-grouse populations estimated to exceed 1,000 birds and where harvest was estimated to be 5% or less of the estimated fall population.

There will be no special sage-grouse season for the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge this year.

### Wild Turkey Spring Limited Entry Hunt

Unit 101 in Elko County will be closed to hunting this year due to low turkey populations. There was public and CAB comment regarding the current turkey seasons needing to be addressed.

### Swan

Swan permit numbers have increased from 650 to 750.

## AUGUST 2024 MEETING - ELKO

The Commission elected Commissioner Shane Rogers as the new Chairman and Commissioner Paul Young as the new Vice Chairman. NBU would like to thank Commissioner Tommy Caviglia for his term as Chairman.

The August meeting had a light agenda with two main topics worth discussing. The first is an additional amendment to the big game release plan which now includes 40 California Bighorns that will be translocated from Oregon to Nevada's Calico Mountain area. This plan was approved.

The second item worth noting was the continued topic regarding e-tags. Clarification language has been added since the May Commission meeting describing how a tag holder would input harvest data to receive a validation code that would need to be attached to the animal. There was discussion amongst the Commission around options of attaching the validation code and how that would work. There were specific questions as to how Montana operates their e-tag program and if they have had any issues. NDOW is going to come back to the Commission at a future date with more information and options on how to affix a validation code to the animal.

The next meeting is on September 27-28 in Las Vegas.



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# Banquet Donors

At every banquet, the wall of guns is stocked full of more than 110 guns that are raffled off. In addition to this, approximately 30 youth in the room walk away with either binoculars or a youth gun. NBU is proud to have such a strong donor network to make this happen! Individuals and companies provide donations towards the wall of guns and other items in the room. In the last journal we highlighted all of the major sponsors. In this journal, we'd like to thank all of those who donated to the wall of guns, youth raffle, silent auction and other raffles in the room. Thank you!

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# CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

[www.ndow.org/blog/chronic-wasting-disease/](http://www.ndow.org/blog/chronic-wasting-disease/)

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a transmissible neurological disease (spongiform encephalopathy (TSE)) that is found in deer and elk. It is believed to be caused by a mutated protein, called a prion that attaches to, and transforms healthy brain proteins into disfigured mutations that lead to a deterioration of the brain, and ultimately death of the animal.

CWD is similar but different from scrapie (a disease found in domestic sheep), Bovine Spongiform Encephalitis (also referred to as "mad cow" disease) and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (a TSE found in humans.) While similar to these diseases, there is no known causal link between CWD and other TSEs of animals or people. There is currently no evidence to indicate that CWD can be transmitted from elk and deer to livestock or humans.

In several states CWD has been linked to declines in mule deer populations. Currently, CWD is found in 33 states and 4 Canadian provinces. As of today, CWD has not been detected in Nevada. However, the disease has been confirmed in three of the five states that border Nevada including Idaho, Utah, and now California. Positive detections of CWD were discovered in California near Bishop and Yosemite by the California Department of Fish and Game. Thus, a Transportation Restriction Zone (TRZ) was created by the Nevada Department of Agriculture through Quarantine Order (Q-JG05232024) to improve surveillance and prevent movement of CWD. **It is now mandatory that anyone who harvests a deer in the TRZ consisting of hunt units 192-196, 201-208, 211-213, and 291 submit a CWD sample.** Additionally, to ensure Nevada continues to be free of CWD we ask successful hunters of deer or elk in **ALL** units within the state submit a sample so their harvest can be tested for CWD.



© Lynn Starnes - Great Wildlife Photos

**If you harvest a mule deer in the TRZ (see map on opposite page) you MUST:**

1. Submit a MANDATORY CWD sample.
  - It is now mandatory that anyone who harvests a deer in the TRZ (consisting of Hunt Units 192-196, 201-208, 211-213, and 291) submits a CWD sample. Within the TRZ, the animal or a self-collected sample can be brought to the Reno (Valley Road) or Tonopah NDOW Offices, or Check Station within the TRZ.
  - One lucky person who submits a CWD sample will win a cooler filled with prizes courtesy of Nevada Muley's.
  - For an up-to-date schedule of check stations and sampling locations, please view this link: <https://www.ndow.org/blog/chronic-wasting-disease/>
  - The sample must be received by NDOW within 1 week of harvest.
  - For up-to-date information on how to get your deer sampled 7 days a week, please scan this QR code, visit the link above OR call the Nevada CWD Hotline at (800) 800-1667.
2. Be aware of the Transport Restriction Zone (see map on opposite page).
  - A sample collected from a mule deer harvested within the TRZ must be dropped off at either the Reno (Valley Road) or Tonopah NDOW offices.

**If you harvest any elk, mule deer or moose either within or outside of Nevada or white-tailed deer, reindeer, caribou or fallow deer outside of Nevada, you must also abide by the following regulations:**

- It is illegal for you, your agent, or employee to knowingly transport or possess the carcass or any part of the carcass of these big game species (above) that were obtained in another state, territory, or country, or in the Nevada TRZ, HOWEVER:
 

**It is legal for you, your agent, or employee to bring into Nevada the following parts of the carcass of any of the animals listed above:**

  - Wrapped meat or quarters, with no part of the spinal column, brain tissue, or head attached.
  - The hide or cape with no part of the spinal column, brain tissue, or head attached.
  - The clean skull plate with antlers attached and no brain tissue attached.
  - The antlers with no meat or tissue other than antler velvet attached.
  - The taxidermy mount with no meat or tissue other than antler velvet (if applicable) attached.
  - The upper canine teeth including, without limitation, the bugler, whistler, and ivory teeth.
  - A sample collected for CWD surveillance (separately bagged and including only the obex and lymph nodes) that can be dropped off at any NDOW office.

**Disposal Requirements Within the TRZ, the spinal column, brain tissue or head attached must be disposed of in the following manner:**

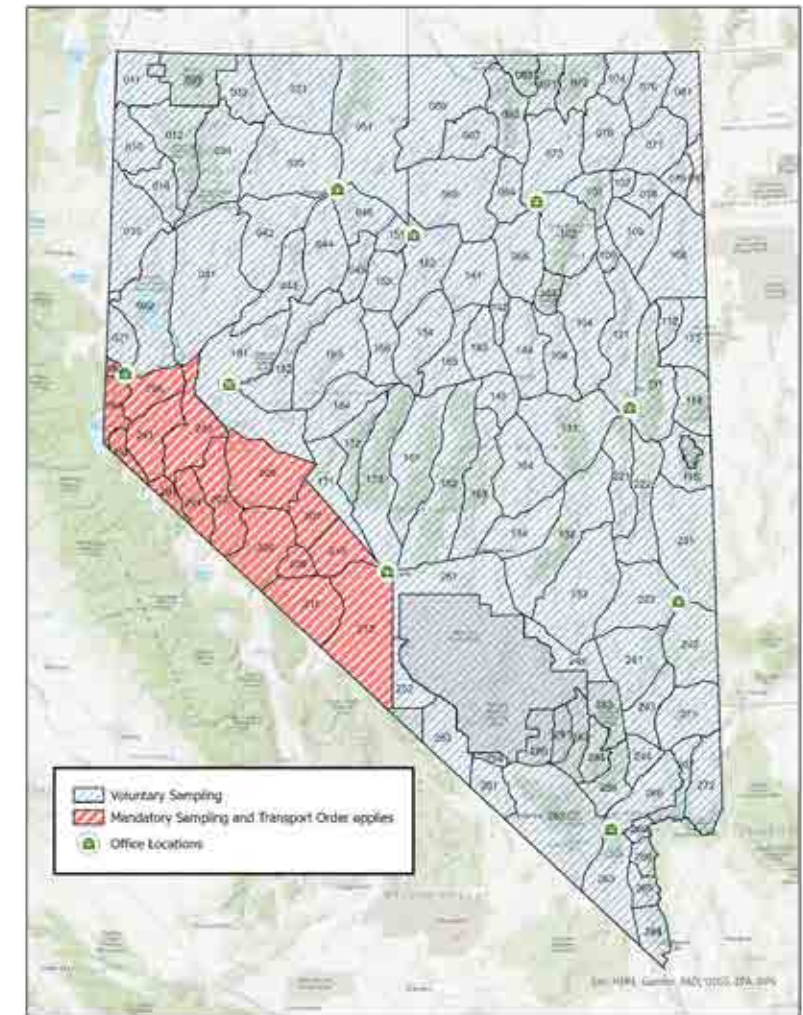
- Left at the site of harvest (preferred method).
- Disposed of in approved and certified landfill within the TRZ (see list here: <https://www.ndow.org/blog/chronic-wasting-disease/>).
- Surrendered to the NDOW office in Reno or Tonopah or check station within the TRZ for disposal.
- Under NO CIRCUMSTANCES should prohibited parts be moved out of the TRZ or disposed of on the landscape (other than the location of kill).

These same transport requirements must be followed when harvesting ANY cervid (deer, elk, moose, and caribou) outside of Nevada. If you are unsure how to abide by these restrictions if you are bringing your animal to a taxidermist, the QR codes below have helpful videos on preparing your harvest for transport:

Self Sampling Instructions



Preparing a European Mount





# FRIENDS OF NEVADA WILDERNESS TRAIL CREW

By Tara Nasvik

Friends of Nevada Wilderness works to protect, educate the public, and steward all public lands with wilderness qualities throughout Nevada. Our trail program works towards creating and sustaining access to our state's incredible backcountry trails. We work primarily with the US Forest Service to maintain Wilderness trails in some of the most remote areas in Nevada. Our professional crews work 8 day "hitches" or work weeks throughout the summer, traveling all across the state.

Later on in the season, one of our crews backpacked up Barley Creek trail and Cottonwood Creek trail. They worked on logging out and brushing the upper section of Barley and Cottonwood all the way to the Table. That section seems to have yearly downfall after each winter, so it's really important for a crew to get out there and keep access open! Thanks to our two trail crews, volunteers, and pack goats, the 19 mile Barley/Cottonwood Loop is in good shape to get out and explore some of Nevada's finest backcountry terrain.



Friends of Nevada Wilderness Trail Crews hiking in Table Mountain Wilderness to their worksite.



Friends of Nevada Wilderness Trail crew lead uses a crosscut saw to clear a large tree from the trail.

A big focus of this season was the Barley/Cottonwood Loop in Table Mountain Wilderness. This loop is fairly popular for rural Central Nevada standards, as it provides great access for hunting Elk in the fall. Last year, a series of storms washed out the lower portion of Barley Creek trail as well as the access road to the trailhead. The Forest Service was able to get the road repaired quickly and worked with us to coordinate trailwork for the 2024 season. We had a big group of volunteers come out in June to assist the trail crew in rebuilding the eroded trail and creating drainage to help prevent future erosion. We hauled tons of rocks to fix the damage and make the trail navigable again. Luckily, some of our volunteers brought some pack goats to help haul some material and join in on the work party!

If you're interested in volunteering on Nevada's wild trails, supporting our trail crews' work by donating, or just following the amazing amount of work we get done, visit our website at [www.nevadawilderness.org](http://www.nevadawilderness.org).



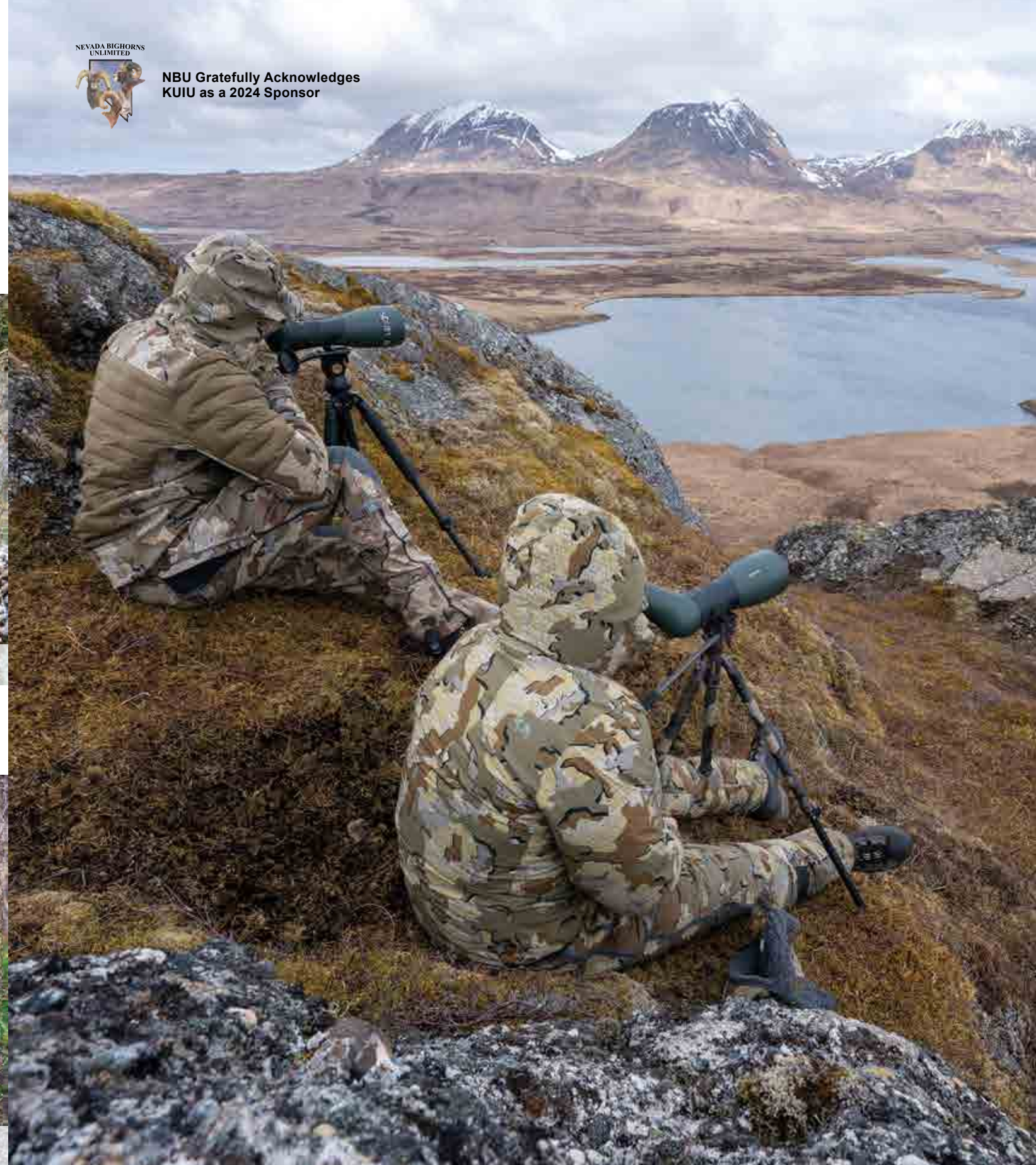
Friends of Nevada Wilderness trail crew leads build rock structures to keep the trail from eroding.



Volunteer pack goats help haul loads of rock and dirt to repair damaged trail.



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## NEVADA'S FIRE SEASON

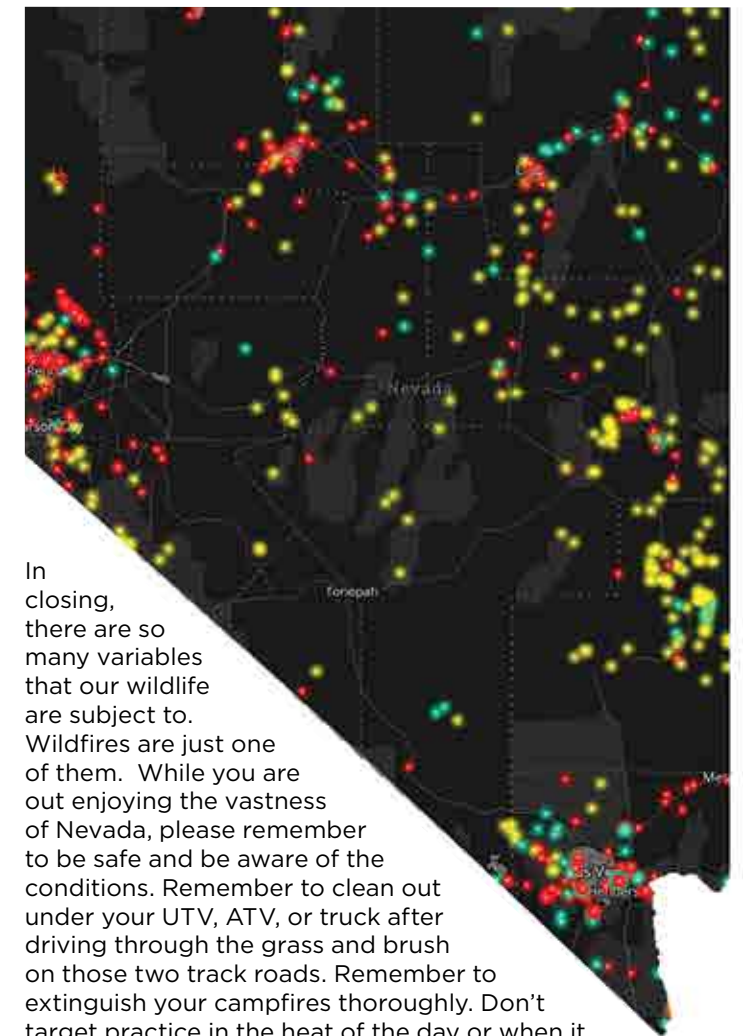
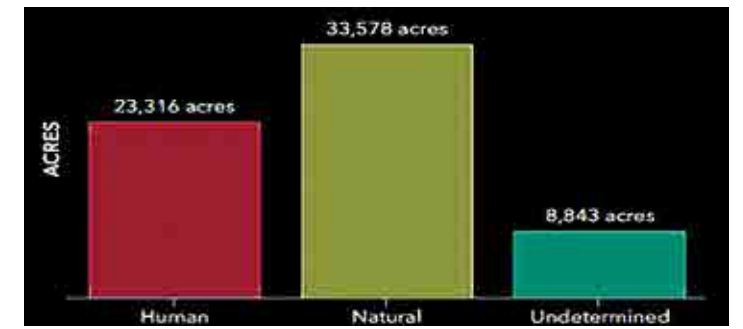
By Matt Fogarty and Victor Yohey

As all of us know too well, it is fire season across the west, and we are right in the middle of the season. Hot summer days, yellow hillsides and smokey skies are something that we have grown familiar with during the summer months here in Northern Nevada. Luckily, so far in Nevada, the large hand of fire season has spared us the slap across the face. Be it suppression efforts, conditions, or luck, Nevada has not lost significant acres yet, compared to other years with this type of grass loading. The moisture that we received in these last two winters has set us up for the potential to burn a lot of acres with the amount of grass that we have. With that being said, we still have another month to get to the end of what is considered fire season, so your big game unit or chukar spots are not out of the woods just yet.

The most significant fires in Nevada so far have been the Wilder fire (17,000 acres) in the Bilk Creek Range, the Stockade Canyon fire (17,000 acres) west of Gerlach, the Broom Canyon Fire (6,000 acres) in the White Pine Range, the Pizona fire (2,100 acres) in the Huntoon Mountains in unit 206, and the North Creek Fire (1,100 acres) near Lages Junction, north of Ely. While some of these sound large, and they are, these are exceptionally small compared to some of the larger, more destructive fires that we have seen with conditions similar in the last 30 years. We have been extremely fortunate to have a couple of consecutive years without many significant wildfires in Nevada. This has allowed the reseeding efforts to get established from previous fires along with a much needed break on Nevada's wildlife.

There are some excellent tools out there for information on wildfires across the west, but we have narrowed it down for you here to keep you updated on your hunt units or favorite camping spots.

- onX Hunt app: onX provides layers on your maps through their app that lets you see the exact boundary of fires and its location. You will need to go into the "Map Layers" and navigate to "Current Conditions" and make sure that "Active Wildfires" is turned on. This information is as up to date as it can be regarding mapping.
- "Nevada Wildfire Information": Put this into your browser and you will find a resource that is extremely impressive. It has up to date mapping, current fires, along with the ability to look at the fire cameras that are across the state to identify new fires and monitor fires from your couch. Do not expect to be able to manipulate the cameras, but they are a great source of information that is live for conditions across the state. These are also a great tool during the hunting season to monitor weather and snow conditions!
- Great Basin Coordination Center: ([gacc.nifc.gov](http://gacc.nifc.gov)) This website is also up to date on fires in the Great Basin, that includes all of Nevada, Utah, most of Idaho and parts of Wyoming and Arizona. This website also has fire locations and perimeters including a ton of other information including weather predictions and forecasts. They also have predictive services that give good indication of drought, fuel loading, and potential for fires.



In closing, there are so many variables that our wildlife are subject to. Wildfires are just one of them. While you are out enjoying the vastness of Nevada, please remember to be safe and be aware of the conditions. Remember to clean out under your UTV, ATV, or truck after driving through the grass and brush on those two track roads. Remember to extinguish your campfires thoroughly. Don't target practice in the heat of the day or when it is windy outside. And remember to always carry a shovel and some extra water or a fire extinguisher. A little bit of prevention goes a long way.



"Get out of the truck!!!!!" came blaring over the radio as Jon, my husband, pumped on the brakes and threw the truck into park. There was a buck antelope just in front of us and he'd started running with his does. I quickly grabbed my rifle and muttered several curse words in my head as I raced up the berm, put the 6.5 into the tripod, forgotten to tighten the clamp, and watched in horror as the muzzle went face first into the dirt. More curse words ran through my mind and as I regained control and found the buck in my scope. But the buck was too far gone.

Fire Drills. That's what Mike, our good friend, had called them. You get out of the truck as fast as you can, grab your rifle, and be ready to shoot in what feels like two seconds flat. It's terrifying. I know what it looks like and how it's supposed to happen. I'd seen Kristie, Mike's wife, do it the year before when she got her buck, and it was the most beautiful fluid movement I'd ever seen. She flew out of the truck, got on her shooting sticks, and dropped her buck in a single shot at 400 yards. But knowing and doing are two different things. And I'd heard Mike say some iteration of that fire drill maybe three times in the past two days. It might have been more, but you'd have to talk to him.

My first fire drill was an absolute cluster. It was the first day of the hunt, about thirty minutes after first light, and Mike was driving behind us. My thirteen year old daughter, Yaelle, pipes up as loud as she can and yells "THERE IS AN ANTELOPE," while Mike comes over the radio and says "Well there's something! Get out of the truck!." What followed, was a comedy of progressive errors, and all my own. Scopes are set up while I stand completely unprepared on the side of the road. My gun is in the truck, in the case. The bullets are in the back of the truck, in another case. I have no idea where the tripod was and all I remember is Mike saying "that's a nice buck!" while Jon was helping me figure out what I was doing with my life. Both Jon and Mike start yelling things about the buck I didn't understand, numbers and size and such, while telling me to look in the scope to see if it was a buck I liked. I'm undecided while both boys have completely lost their minds and tell me I need to go now and chase this buck. I knew what I wanted - I'd made it perfectly clear that I wanted a heavy heart shaped buck, his size was irrelevant. This was the first buck I saw after we'd scouted a decent one the week before; I didn't know if I wanted him or not.

Mistake #1: not being ready. Mistake #2: not having a clue what had gotten the boys so excited. I'd heard "He's heavy," "Look at that mass," "He's probably an 80 inch buck," "Look at all the black." I am newer to the hunting world. I haven't looked at bucks my entire life, and I sure as heck have no idea what the numbers mean. I am more appreciative of good taxidermy and good meat, antelope being one of my favorites. Mistake #3: not listening to seasoned hunters with impeccable taste, my best interest in mind, and almost passing up a buck of a lifetime.

The boys decided for me - I'm glad they did - and we were off. I had learned one lesson and at least had my gun ready this time. Jon and I zipped up the nearest access road while Mike kept an eye on the buck from the highway. We'd come up to a guzzler just as the buck passed and told our three kids to stay in the truck and keep eyes on the buck. I ran with Jon, got set up once, then twice, but the buck was too fast, and chasing antelope in the flats on foot is about as dumb an idea as one can get. Still feeling hopeful, we ran back to the truck and followed the power line roads as he kept running. And running. And didn't stop running. We glassed from the under the unnerving cracking of the power lines above us and found a small buck, a nice wide buck, and only got eyes on the



big buck just as he went out of sight and under a fence, disappearing and turning into an illusion, a ghost of a memory.

We pulled ourselves together, regrouped and reorganized with five kids between us and Mike, and headed to the area we'd scouted the week prior where Mike's wife, Kristie, had gotten her monster buck last year. Sure enough, we start picking up animals and Jon and Mike pull out the scopes to ask if I like what I saw. "No, not enough curve," "No, I don't like his prongs" and so on and so forth until a buck runs out in front of us, chasing a doe. Mike says, "Jess, ya sure you don't like that one?" "Mmmm, no. He doesn't have the right shape." As we keep driving, we found the holy grail of a buck in the distance, under a lone juniper, skylined on the hill. But that hope of a buck disintegrated as soon as we got to the backside of the hill and saw another truck.

I never mind driving through the Nevada wilderness, even if it means we don't find what we are looking for. We'd come across a clutch of chukar, running the road in front

of us, and a large group of mature sage hens. The bighorn sheep were also out, showing off their full curls, stopping to pose for photos, and videos, close enough to us that it was like a documentary film, completely unreal. We'd also come across another outrageous buck, nestled in the fields with his does, in a unit that was not mine.

Though no harvest was made that first day, even after looking for the Ghost again late afternoon, the evening antelope camp turned into a party. We were lucky enough to have friends and family hunting the same unit as we were, and the exchange of stories began once everyone made it to camp. Mike's wife Kristie raced out after work to be with her family, and our friends, Remi and Ryan brought their little ones with them, choosing stay with us in camp that night. It was a riot of seven kids, hide and seek in the dark, half eaten dinners, spilled juice boxes



and sticky hands and faces after Remi got the s'mores going for the kids.

Five a.m. rolled around too quickly, but every kid was acting like it was Christmas morning as we split ways to go find our respective bucks. Remi was with his brother, Ryan, and their kids, and Mike and Kristie ran with us. But it wasn't long before Jon and Mike had called Remi and Ryan to tell them we'd found a buck they might be interested in, because, as you can imagine, the buck didn't have the shape I wanted, and we didn't see the "ghost" buck from the first morning. Five minutes later we get the text "Buck Down!" with no pic for context. Rude.

The game was on for us now that we'd mused over what buck Ryan had gotten and so quickly. I'm starting to re-evaluate my buck requirements when either Mike or Kristie inform me that there was a nice buck off to the right. Now that Kristie was with us, I was going to take full advantage of her female gaze. The boys might be excited, but if Kristie wasn't impressed, I wasn't going to be readily swayed. I glassed and passed it. We'd driven

another mile or so when we'd stumbled into buck city, along with hunter congestion. I grumbled over the four trucks and UTV in the hills when Mike comes on the radio, telling me to be ready. He'd talked to the hunters in front of us and it was down to me getting the buck if they missed. "Jess, get out of the truck, now!" I hear from Mike, as shots are fired and the buck runs towards us. My next cluster of chaos ensues. Damn fire drill. I wasn't steady on the shooting sticks, but the tripod was too short. Finally, the picture perfect buck is in front of me, broadside, at 170 glorious yards. My gun didn't fire. Panic sets in as I try again. Nothing happens.

"Jon! The gun won't fire!!!"  
"Shoot, is the safety off?"  
"YES!"

My mistake was that the bolt wasn't closed all the way and by the time we realized it, the buck was gone, across the road, and I wasn't willing to play the game.

That's when the next fire drill happened. That's when I'd dropped the gun muzzle straight into the dirt. I should have known it would have been an insane ride after that. Jon and I decided to chase this big one and left the mostly useful items in the truck - the scope, a pack, water, our phones. We ran into the hills, coming across several other bucks and finally spotting the one. It was the most epic of stalks, and we were going to kill this buck. We had to. We were over a mile in, had left our kids with Mike and Kristie, and knew the buck was just below us as we glassed another buck rutting, trying to round up his twenty does. Everything was perfect. Except, the buck never showed. He wasn't there. We'd hiked up another hill, getting farther in, only to realize this huge buck had turned into ether and I didn't want the one rutting, even though he was never more than 200 yards from me.

It's a saga at this point. I realize how fortunate I was to be seeing and turning down bucks left and right. Kristie is pulling pages from her book telling me to keep waiting (after all, she killed her 80 inch buck on the last day the prior year), encouraging me to stay the course; Mike has his "Mike-isms" and Jon starts chiming in too. I'm seriously conflicted at this point.

The last day is coming upon us, I don't have a buck, I don't want what I've seen, and the bizarre ice cold August wind bearing down on us that late afternoon was doing nothing for the mood I was in. We headed to camp early evening that day for a much needed reset with the kids and our families.

The running slogan among us friends is "Last Day, Best Day," which we just all need to come to grips with as the reality of our hunts. Mike had given me a "lucky" bullet, Kristie wore her lucky color, and I had worn my three day old wool socks (we all have our thing, right?). We glass at



our spot off the highway, for the third day in a row. I find a group of antelope but couldn't tell if there was a buck. Jon jumps on the scope, only to yell "That's a nice buck!" Next thing I knew, Jon and Mike are having a meltdown, both telling me I have to kill this buck. Meanwhile, Kristie laughs and shrugs, but gives me an encouraging smile.

Jon and I chased that buck hard on foot, another crusade of a walk, this time on the flats. Had we not learned our lesson? The buck had crossed the access road, but Mike and Kristie were on it. Mike was going to make sure the buck didn't ghost us again. Kristie got dumped at our truck with no complaints and was with all five kids while Mike blazed up to me and Jon as we hopped on his tailgate. Back and forth, up and down this road, fire drill after fire drill, Mike reminding me several times that I have to kill this buck. I'm sure Jon did too. On the third pass, tearing up and down this access road, we make one hopeful last ditch effort and grab the cow decoy, praying that this rutting buck would at least stop when he saw the cow. I'm praying it works too.

Four hundred yards was as close as we could get. We had to close the distance so Mike grabs the cow decoy and we start walking close behind. 370 yards. 330 yards... just closing the gap. This was it, my last chance, everything that morning was leading up to this moment of getting the buck in my crosshairs and finally staring at my Ghost.

Special thanks to Mike and Kristie Marchese for holding down the fort while we went off on our spot and stalks, for encouraging me to be picky, to "not get an itchy trigger finger." I really can't thank Kristie enough for being my muse, supporting me, and being a prime example of a hunter that I can only aspire to be. Mike, you have a gem. Keep her always. To their kids, Louie and Liberty, for being a source of entertainment and encouragement. To Mel Belding for the cow decoy. To Remi Warren and Ryan Warren, for being the cool dads and making a ruckus with

the s'mores. To their kids, Wren and Arlo, for being great cheerleaders, telling us we were all gonna get the big antelopes. To my husband, Jon, for putting up with my pickiness and not getting frustrated as I passed another shooter buck, for holding me as I cried after the bullet met the buck, for supporting me in all my endeavors. Love you forever. To my kids, Yaelle, Liev, and Connairae. Yaelle spotted the Ghost the first day. Liev spotted a number of great bucks I chased, and Connairae kept trying her hardest to find the "buckalopes." You three are my greatest joys. To Jason Salisbury, for being a top notch biologist. And congrats to Ryan and my brother for being able to harvest beautiful bucks in this unit with me.



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## NEVADA'S MOST GENETICALLY ENDEMIC POPULATION OF DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP THREATENED BY INDISCRIMINATE UTILITY-SCALE SOLAR ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

By Julien Pellegrini, Wildlands Policy Manager at Friends of Nevada Wilderness

Many organizations, including Friends of Nevada Wilderness, individuals, sportsmen and Native American tribes in the state are voicing concerns over how fast the Bureau of Land Management is moving to authorize transmission lines and huge industrial-scale solar energy facilities within Esmeralda County, Nevada using land use plans dating from the previous century with no balance for conservation. The BLM's fast-tracking of the Greenlink West Transmission Line Project (GLWP) which cuts through 80 miles of intact landscapes through the center of Esmeralda County from milepost 87 to milepost 166, and subsequent utility-scale solar energy development projects, encompassing nearly half of Esmeralda County, will forever change the wild character of this landscape that contains significant cultural and wildlife resources. The already proposed solar energy developments, Esmeralda County Seven Solar and Coaldale Junction Solar Projects encompass nearly 85,000 Acres of the county. But with BLM-approved variance lands associated with the GLWP through the county, as much as 119,000 acres, or 185 square miles, as recently described by The Nevada Independent, is being opened up for shoulder-to-shoulder solar energy development. Should these projects move forward, our most important desert bighorn sheep population will cease to exist as these projects fall directly on top of critical habitat and migratory corridors relied upon for bighorn sheep survival. We are in full support of the need to develop alternative energy to address the impacts of climate change, but this push for renewable energy must not be done at the expense of our most cherished intact landscapes and the wildlife that relies on them.

Esmeralda County, Nevada is home to the state's most genetically endemic population of desert bighorn sheep and the significant negative impacts to this population stemming from installation of the GLWP and related utility-scale solar energy developments will forever hinder or eliminate any future research, translocation, and continued coveted hunting opportunities relied upon by generations of Nevada's sportsmen and women in Esmeralda County and beyond. This population of desert bighorn sheep utilize the mountain ranges surrounding pluvial dry Lake Tonopah but during severe winters, this bighorn sheep population often forage into lower elevations, particularly, the foothills and alluvial fans existing within the proposed boundary of the Esmeralda Seven Solar Project, Coaldale Junction Solar Project, and GLWP corridor. Many peer-reviewed research studies have been conducted on this bighorn sheep population over the past few decades due to their endemic genetic diversity and variability, and subsequently, the importance of conservation efforts for this population of bighorn sheep. Additionally, the mule deer population in Esmeralda County, and much of Nevada, over the past few years has experienced declines due in large part to reduced quality of habitat from development, a trend that in Esmeralda County will be accelerated significantly should the Esmeralda utility-scale solar projects and GLWP be authorized by the BLM to move forward.

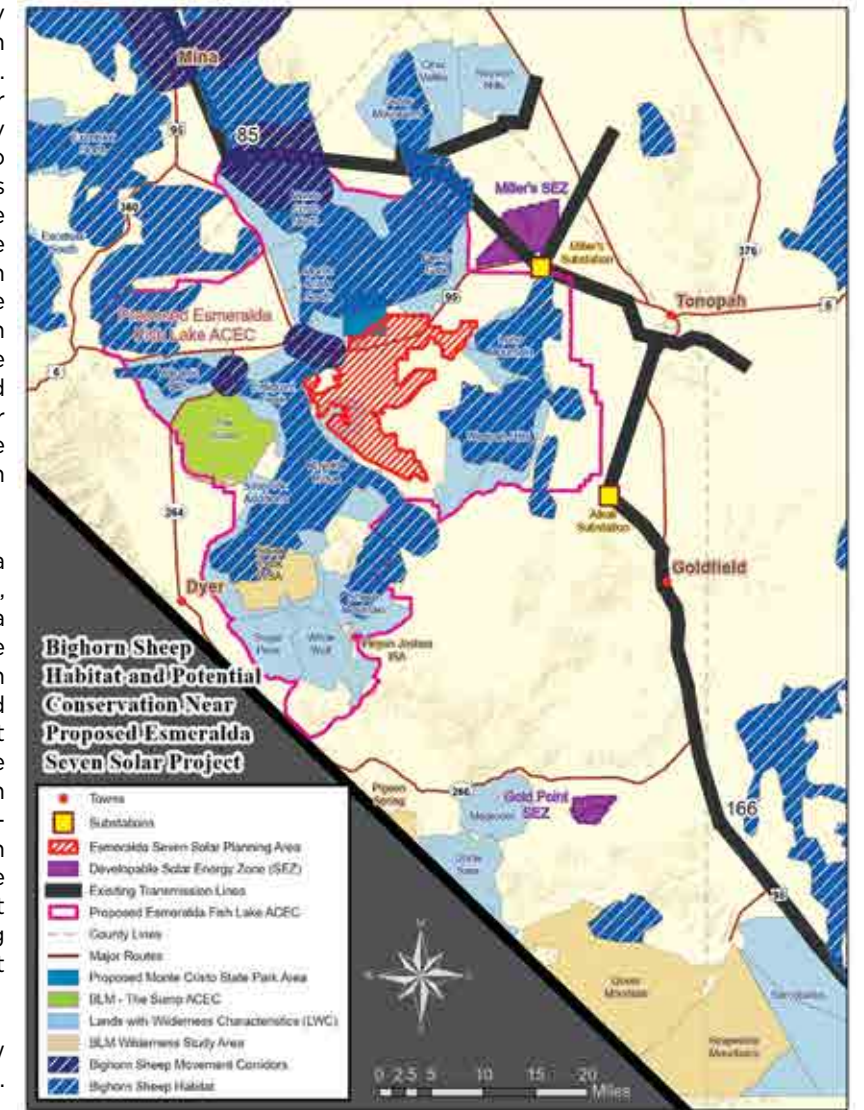
BLM Director Tracy Stone-Manning said that the BLM is "publishing land use plans that truly and responsibly balance all uses across our public lands rather than allowing one industry or one extractive use to dominate."



We urge the BLM to follow and enact this policy in Esmeralda County before authorizing such projects to move forward and be developed. Finding the right balance to protect our natural and cultural heritage and the ability for sportsmen in and from out of the state to maintain their right to, and the government's obligation to provide for, their ability to continue their long-standing tradition while helping the nation move to more green energy is critical. In fact, there is a viable alternative: co-locate the GLWP to the already developed transmission right of way to the north and east and move the proposed solar development complex into and nearby the previously identified Millers Solar Energy Zone (see map). If this were to occur, the core of the Esmeralda County desert bighorn sheep population's habitat would be spared.

To better accomplish this goal, Friends of Nevada Wilderness, the Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife, multiple Native American Tribes and Nevada Bighorns Unlimited are asking you for immediate action to protect our coveted desert bighorn sheep population from the BLM's proposed fast-track approval of the Greenlink West Project Transmission line and subsequently, the Esmeralda Seven solar and Coaldale Junction Solar Energy projects along with all future utility-scale solar energy developments that we all can be assured are to follow. We are asking for these projects to be placed responsibly in areas that hold the least impacts to our public lands along with increasing our efforts of wildlife and habitat conservation.

To better help us in this fight, please review and sign the petition found at: [https://www.nevadawilderness.org/esmeralda\\_petition](https://www.nevadawilderness.org/esmeralda_petition)





## NBU LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The NBU Legacy Scholarship Program was developed to honor individuals that have contributed significant time and resources to NBU. The program was also developed to commemorate the accomplishments of NBU throughout our history. It's our goal as sportsmen and working professionals to leave a legacy of wildlife conservation for future generations. We feel that supporting students with academic scholarships will aid our mission and benefit Nevada's wildlife immensely. Funding for this program comes from countless sportsmen volunteer hours and dollars. In 2024, NBU selected the following students as the recipients of the Legacy Scholarship Program. Learn about them below!

### Cade Crookshanks



Born and raised in Nevada, the high desert we call home has instilled within me a love and burning passion for everything outdoors. Spending time fishing, hunting, and backpacking with my family helped to develop an innate curiosity and a thirst for understanding surrounding wildlife and our natural systems. Having worked and volunteered for the Nevada Department of Wildlife, I knew that a career in conservation was on the horizon for myself. Furthering this passion, in my current endeavors at the University of Idaho, I study fish and wildlife conservation while also leading an independent undergraduate research study. With graduation expected in December, I cannot wait to synthesize my classroom learning, field work experience, and passion for the outdoors in a professional setting. I appreciate and value my friends and loving family who continually encourage my pursuance of success and happiness. I am beyond thankful for Nevada Bighorns Unlimited not only for their amazing contributions to wildlife conservation, but for supporting students like myself to become more engaged, educated, and prepared to make a difference in wildlife conservation.

### Hanna Grock



Hanna Grock is a Graduate student at the University of Nevada, Reno, pursuing a master's degree in Natural Resources and Environmental Science with an emphasis in Wildlife Ecology. Growing up in Nevada, she has deep ties to the area and has worked numerous wildlife jobs to help conduct research for the benefit of Nevada's wildlife. She is dedicated to conserving Nevada's wildlife through various avenues, including expanding scientific knowledge, mentoring young professionals, and disseminating scientific information.

### Ryane Humes



I am going into my sophomore year at Oklahoma State University studying Animal Science with a focus in pre-veterinary science. I hope to attend Vet school once I have finished my undergraduate. My goal is to pursue a career as a wildlife veterinarian and help with conservation of the wild game I have grown up hunting with my family. I am a 5th generation Nevadan hunter and I enjoy spending time in the backcountry of our beautiful state. I am very grateful for being selected for this scholarship.

### Mikkala Perchetti



I grew up in Lamoille, Nevada and have always had a passion for wildlife conservation. I recently graduated with my B.S. in Biology from Idaho State University, and I will be starting Veterinary Medical School in the fall of 2024 at Kansas State University!

### Zoe Smith



My name is Zoe Smith, and I'm a sophomore at Feather River College. I am currently pursuing an associates degree in environmental science and plan to graduate from FRC in the spring of 2025. After obtaining my associates degree, I plan to transfer to the University of Nevada, Reno, to pursue a masters degree in rangeland ecology and management, or natural resources. After I am done with my studies, I hope to work in the state of Nevada as either a Rangeland Management Specialist or a Natural Resource Manager. In either of these careers, I am looking forward to putting my best effort towards helping manage both rangelands and natural resources to contribute to the conservation efforts of both Nevada's wildlife and rangelands.

I grew up enjoying the outdoors with my family, hunting, fishing, and exploring the Nevada desert. Throughout all these adventures, I developed a love for the outdoors and the western lifestyle. That being said, I have always known that I wanted to have a career where the outdoors could be my office. Looking towards the future, I am excited to eventually serve my home state and make a positive impact on wildlife and rangeland conservation efforts to keep our state thriving for future generations to enjoy.

I would like to thank the NBU scholarship committee for choosing me as one of the recipients of the 2024 NBU Legacy scholarship. I am extremely honored to have been chosen to receive a scholarship from an organization that contributes so much to enhancing Nevada's wildlife, natural resources, and the sportsmen lifestyle. This scholarship will be a tremendous help in funding my studies throughout my next year of college, and I could not be more grateful.

### Montana Strozzi



Hello! My name is Montana Strozzi! I am studying Wildlife Ecology and Conservation at the University of Nevada, Reno. I have a passion for wildlife conservation, and I hope to be a wildlife biologist one day. I am currently doing the Lathrop and Capurro internship with NDOW and NBU, and it is furthering my love for everything Nevada has to offer. I am so grateful for this scholarship and excited for this upcoming school year!



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By Michael Day,  
President MTOYOSC Inc.



Wow, another successful year has been accomplished! Maison T Ortiz Youth Outdoor Skills, Inc. (MTOYOSI) was able to plan, produce, and execute another successful youth outdoor skills camp in 2024. This marks our 14th year of our organization and the 12th year of our camp. There were two years where we were not able to have the camp due to a range fire and to Covid.



One can say that we are getting more experienced with these camps. I would agree with that statement and add that each year provides its own unique situations and circumstances that require some fancy footwork to overcome. 2024 was no different, and thanks to the generous Sponsors and the determination, skills and hard work of our Board of Directors and Volunteers, we completed another great camp. If you go to our website at [www.nevadaoutdoorskills.org](http://www.nevadaoutdoorskills.org) one can soon access the latest video on the 2024 camp and check out all the campers having a great time. We are also working on updating our Instagram and Facebook pages to include this year.

Covid really put a dent into the camp structure when the first year of the camp was completely cancelled. The following two years created a situation where the standard three day/sleep over camp would not meet county and state guidelines. Those two years, 2021 and 2022, the camp consisted of one single full day of camp activities with no camping or sleep-over experiences. 2024 continues the traditional standard of three days and two nights of camp where 68 youth, between the ages of 11 to 14, were able to experience our usual camp skills courses along with again experiencing campfire activities, tent sleeping, and evening classes of conservation education and outdoor careers.

Each day was designed to offer a fun and safe environment where the 68 campers would rotate through stations where they participated in firearm safety, pellet range, fishing, shotgun, archery, 22 rifle, leadership-teambuilding, outdoor survival, game calls, wildlife tracks and ID, first aid, plus fabricating walking sticks and survival bracelets.

A major addition to the last two camps is the incorporation of school buses to transport the youth campers from Reno to the Winnemucca Ranch where the camp is held. At the end of camp on Sunday, parents and guardians are invited to a free lunch before they pick up their kids. This exposes the families to the facilities, the volunteers and to the sponsors that are all involved with putting on the camp.

Our camp could not be done without the time, energy and hard work of our volunteers who literally sweat their tails off to put on this camp for the kids. This year we had 98 Volunteers and 12 Junior Mentors who worked at camp. A huge "Thank You" goes out to them! A special shout out goes to all the companies and individuals that make contributions to this camp both in money and in in-kind donations. Thank you for your support! I would be remiss without also sending out a heartfelt thank you to the Board of Directors that spend the entire year planning and preparing for each camp. All the above are the backbone of MTOYOS Camp.



## SPONSORS AND DONORS

### FINANCIAL

Anonymous and Individual Financial Donors  
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 Scheels  
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 Washoe County School District  
 Waste Management  
 Western Nevada Supply

### MISSION STATEMENT

Provide an interactive outdoor summer camp that engages youth in safe, responsible and fun wildlife related recreational and conservation activities. The objectives that drive this Mission are:

- Promoting individual and collective safety
- Promoting sportsmanship and ethics
- Promoting stewardship of private and public lands
- Promoting knowledge and respect of wildlife and its habitat
- Understanding the role of sportsmen and sportswomen in wildlife and habitat conservation
- Continuation of our outdoor heritage





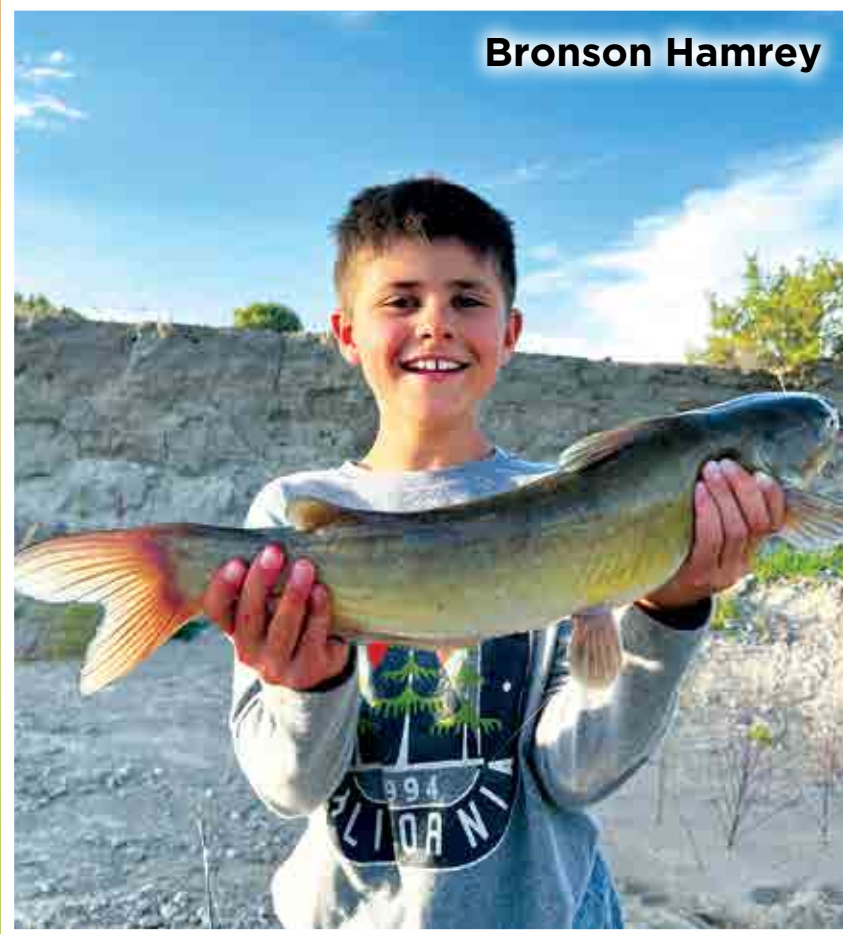
# Youth IN THE FIELD

We love seeing what our youth are up to! Please send us your photos to [bighornsjournal@gmail.com](mailto:bighornsjournal@gmail.com).

**Jimmy R. Anderson**



**Bronson Hamrey**



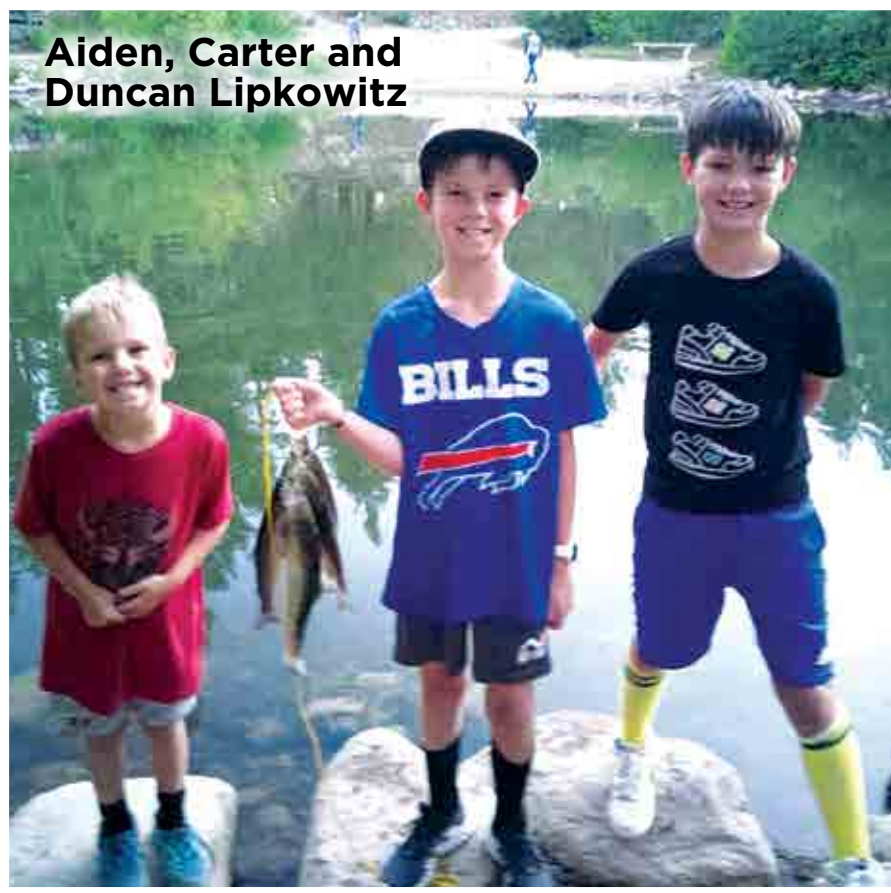
**Blake Horan**



**Bodin Hamrey**




**Aiden, Carter and Duncan Lipkowitz**



**Georgia and Cliff Percy**



 Brit N Tina Forrester (@skedaddlesetters)



# VENISON, PARSNIP & TURNIP STEW

By Jenny Nguyen-Wheatley

We will be highlighting game recipes every journal issue. If you have a recipe that you would like to share, please email Lydia Teel at [bighornsjournal@gmail.com](mailto:bighornsjournal@gmail.com).

Jenny Nguyen-Wheatley is an editor, outdoor writer and photographer out of Nebraska. She is full-time associate editor at Nebraskaland Magazine and has contributed to Gun Dog Magazine, the Filson Journal, Outside Magazine, Covey Rise, MeatEater, Petersen's Hunting, Game & Fish, Pheasants Forever, Quail Forever and more.

To see more recipes from Jenny, visit <https://foodforhunters.blogspot.com> or find her on Instagram @foodforhunters

Servings: 4-6  
Prep Time: 15 minutes  
Cooking Time: 3 hours

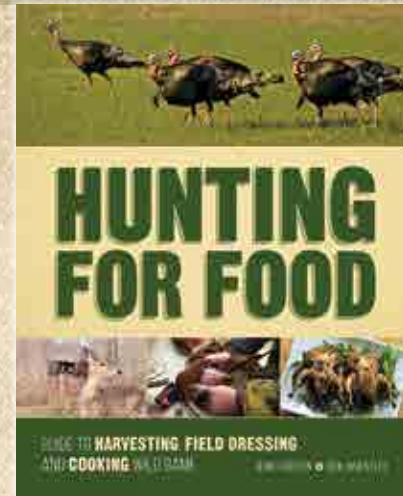
## Ingredients:

- 3 pounds venison stew meat (deer, antelope, elk, moose, etc.), do not remove silver skin
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 5 tablespoons flour
- 1 onion, chopped
- Cooking oil
- 3 ribs of celery, cut into large sections
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 teaspoon dried rosemary or fresh leaves, chopped
- 1½ cups dry red wine
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 5 garlic cloves, smashed
- - 2 quarts unsalted/low sodium game or beef stock
- - 2 large carrots, chopped into large pieces
- - 2 parsnips, peeled and chopped into large pieces
- - 2 turnips, chopped into large pieces
- - Flat leaf parsley for garnish
- - Crusty bread for serving on the side



## DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit. Pat meat dry with paper towels and toss with salt and pepper to taste in a bowl. Then toss with the flour. In a Dutch oven, coat the bottom with oil and heat over medium-high. Shake off excess flour from meat and add to the hot oil (in batches) and brown to form a nice crust. Set remaining flour aside for a later step. Remove browned meat and set aside.
2. Add more oil to the pot. Add chopped onion, pinch of salt, bay leaf, rosemary and celery and sauté until onion turns translucent; lower heat if necessary to avoid burning. Next, add the tomato paste, remaining flour from step 1 and garlic, and sauté for 1 minute.
3. Add wine and scrape the bottom of the pot with a wooden spoon to release brown bits. Allow wine to simmer and reduce by one quarter, stirring frequently. Return browned stew meat to the pot and pour in game or beef stock. Stir and bring to a low boil.
4. Take off heat. Cover the opening of the pot with foil, and then place the lid on top – the foil helps to slow down moisture loss. Cook in a 350-degree oven for about 1 hour and 30 minutes. Then discard the foil and add the carrots, parsnips and turnips and continue to cook covered for another 30-45 minutes or until meat and vegetables become tender. For a thicker stew, remove the foil earlier or simmer uncovered over the stove to reduce.
5. Taste for seasoning and garnish with freshly chopped parsley. Serve with crusty bread. This stew tastes better the day after.



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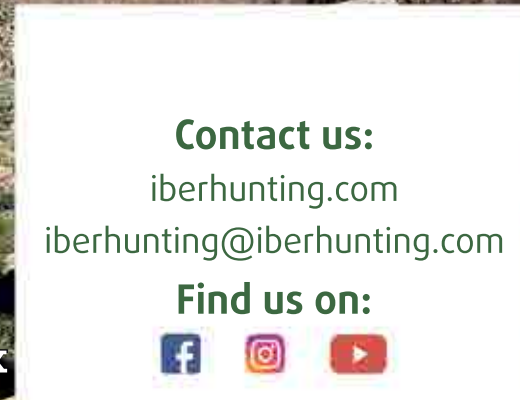
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# Remembering Friends

## Larry Richard Hicks Dec 13, 1943 - May 29, 2024

It is with great sadness that we announce the sudden and tragic passing of Larry Richard Hicks, on May 29, 2024. Revered U.S. District Court Judge, esteemed lawyer, former Washoe County District Attorney, loyal friend and mentor, loving husband, father, and Papa. He was a strong and vibrant 80 years old.



Larry was a giant in Nevada's legal community. For over 55 years, he was a formidable lawyer and judge who never wavered in his pursuit for justice on behalf of clients, victims of crime, and the great state of Nevada. He was a true gentleman filled with kindness and sincerity who left an indelible mark on all who had the privilege of his company. Larry's greatest thrill and central focus in life was his family, who were second to none in his heart. He was a doting husband of 59 years and adoring patriarch of 3 children and 10 grandchildren. Larry lived his full life as all should, successfully balancing humility with excellence, devotion to family with an unwavering work ethic, and the pursuit of hobbies with great zeal despite limited time allotted to us all. He was truly one of a kind and an exceptional example of how life should be lived.

Born on December 13, 1943, in Evanston, Illinois to Carl and Margaret Hicks, the family moved to Los Angeles when Larry was 2 years old, then moved to his beloved Reno, Nevada in 1957. He attended Billingshurst Middle School and Reno High School. During these formative years, Larry's lifelong love for Nevada's amazing outdoors blossomed as he began to develop a deep interest in horsemanship, camping, hunting, and fishing. He often fondly recalled the days where he would ride his horse from his family's home in southwest Reno deep into the Sierra Nevada Mountains or throughout the city as a teenager. Larry relished in the beauty of Northern Nevada and absorbed all it had to offer.

The first in his family to graduate from college, Larry was a committed student at the University of Nevada, Reno, earning a degree in Business Administration. He was a proud member of the Sigma Nu fraternity, inducted into their Legion of Honor in 2007, and maintained lifetime friendships with fellow members until he passed.

While in college, his life was forever improved when he met Marianne Avansino at a family wedding. They married a year later and, for the next 59 years, their relationship defined love and family. Soon after their wedding, they moved to Colorado where Larry attended law school at the University of Colorado Boulder.

Working for District Attorney Bill Raggio in the Washoe County District Attorney's Office on summer breaks from law school spurred his passion for public service and the pursuit of justice. He accepted a job there as a Deputy District Attorney after graduating and quickly established himself as a highly effective trial attorney, once successfully trying 11 felony jury trials in 13 weeks, and prosecuting several high-profile murder cases. Larry rose to a leadership role in the office and when then District Attorney Bob Rose left for other pursuits, Larry was appointed to the role. He was retained by the voters in 1974 when he was elected district attorney. Larry cherished working in the DA's Office and often reflected on it being one of the greatest and most rewarding times of his illustrious career. His immense service to the state of Nevada as a district attorney was recognized in 2011 by the Nevada Advisory Council for Prosecuting Attorneys who presented Larry with the William J. Raggio Award for his role as a past prosecutor and his contributions to the improvement of the administration of justice in Nevada.

In 1979, Larry and his younger brother Bud Hicks joined the prestigious McDonald Carano law firm. Over the next 21 years, he achieved tremendous success practicing law in the firm while heading its Litigation Section and specializing in numerous areas of law. Larry treasured his time at McDonald Carano and his everlasting friendships that were built there.

During his time with McDonald Carano, Larry was elected President of the State Bar of Nevada in 1993 and served on its Board of Governors from 1988 to 1994. He was also a past president and master of the Bruce R. Thompson Chapter of the American Inns of Court in Reno and was inducted into the American College of Trial Lawyers in 1998. He also served as a delegate to the American Bar Association from 1994 until 2000. In 2020, Larry was honored with the State Bar of Nevada's Presidential Award which is presented annually to a bar member whose conduct, honesty and integrity represents the highest standards of the legal profession. Award recipients inspire by example, advance the administration of justice and bring honor to the profession.

Larry was nominated by President George W. Bush to the U.S. District Court bench in 2001 and received bipartisan support from Nevada's U.S. Senators John Ensign and Harry Reid. During his Senate Judiciary Committee confirmation hearing, Senator Reid described Larry as "a lawyer's lawyer" and "simply one of the best."

Larry had a preeminent 22-year career on the bench presiding over many notable cases. Litigants appearing in his courtroom trusted his fairness and objectivity and respected his knowledge, integrity, and congeniality. Other judges and court staff greatly benefitted from his mentorship, leadership, and kindness. He became a Senior Judge in 2012 but continued to take a substantial caseload, which greatly assisted the other judges of the court. Larry was entirely devoted to the rule of law and our system of justice.

He loved being a judge and considered it to be a life fulfilling experience. From his first day in the courtroom to his last, he viewed his duty to the court and its participants to be a solemn one. He was a brilliant jurist who personified honesty, wisdom, humility, courtesy, and unimpeachable integrity. Outside the courtroom, He had a deep affection for his "Chambers Family." Larry regularly spoke of the daily pleasure he enjoyed from working with his outstanding law clerks and court staff.

Beyond his professional life, Larry was an avid outdoorsman. He immersed himself in outdoor activities that our region has to offer, always with friends and family members by his side. Riding horses with Marianne, golfing in Graeagle or with his "Geezer Golf" colleagues, striper fishing on the California Delta, hunting deer and antelope on the "Sheldon," casting flies for rainbows on 5-dot Reservoir, and hunting ducks at the Canvasback Gun Club with his devoted labrador, are notable examples of the pastimes that defined Larry and enriched his life.



Above all else, Larry's greatest passion in life was his family. It began with his enduring and limitless love for Marianne, and thus hers for him. They acted as one, sharing in all manners of life and love. He and Marianne were graced that their three children settled in Reno and made their homes within a mile radius of theirs. He was happily involved in all aspects of their lives, and particularly his ten grandchildren. On a daily basis, Larry engaged with any given number of his precious family members. A morning cup of coffee, a lunch, attending a school sporting event, a chat on the back patio, phone call, or a family dinner, were often and prized.



Spending time together as a family was the usual joyful event no matter the place or time. There was always a reason to gather and celebrate, whether it be a special occasion, holiday, an accomplishment, or just because it happened to be a beautiful evening. Dinners together were always worthy of a patented-Papa toast usually accompanied by a noted P.T.A. (Pause To Appreciate) moment.

Larry is survived by his wife of 59 years, Marianne; his brothers Bud Hicks (wife Suzette) and Don Hicks (wife Judy); his three children, Carrie Ortiz (husband Tom), Amy Gilmartin (husband Mark), Christopher Hicks (wife Nicole); his nine grandchildren; Chase, Anabella, Sawyer, Carson, Delaney, Drew, Siena, Olivia, and Lucy. Larry's first-born grandson, Maison Ortiz, preceded him in death.

In lieu of flowers please consider making a donation in Larry's name to the Maison T Ortiz Youth Outdoor Skills Camp (MTOYOSC). The kids camp is a tribute to Maison who loved Nevada's outdoors and passed away at the age of 15 in a tragic accident. Checks can be made payable to MTOYOSC with the memo line indicating: In memory of Larry Hicks. Please mail to MTOYOSC, 4790 Caughlin Parkway, #753, Reno, Nevada 89519. Contributions can also be made online at [nevadaoutdoorskills.org](http://nevadaoutdoorskills.org)



**NEVADA BIGHORNS UNLIMITED**



**Nevada Bighorns Unlimited**

**Membership Application & Renewal Form**



*When you join Nevada Bighorns Unlimited you become a member of one of the premier volunteer wildlife organizations in the country, committed to working for the future of Nevada's wildlife.*

You have a choice of membership levels:

- **Regular Individual** – Receives a 1-year subscription to the NBU Journal and notifications of volunteer events.
- **Corporate** – Receives a 1-year subscription to the NBU Journal and inclusion in the Corporate Member listing in each issue of the Journal and on the NBU website and notifications of special events throughout the year.
- **Outfitter** – Receives a 1-year subscription to the NBU Journal and inclusion in the Outfitter Member listing in each issue of the Journal and on the NBU website and notification of special events throughout the year.

**Every Membership** in Nevada Bighorns Unlimited helps to re-establish, augment and maintain Nevada's Wildlife.

**A Lifetime Member** can feel confident that his or her donation and participation in NBU creates the greatest impact possible on Nevada's wildlife and habitat.

We offer the following benefits to members participating at the lifetime levels below:

- **Gold Ram** – A Gold Ram Member receives a lifetime subscription to the NBU Journal, a Gold Ram NBU Nevada Slam Jacket, a Life Member hat, a personalized wall plaque, a Gold Ram Member Lapel Pin, the NBU decal and one complimentary ticket each year to the NBU Annual Fundraising Banquet.
- **Silver Ram** – A Silver Ram Member receives a lifetime subscription to the NBU Journal, a Silver Ram Life Member Lapel Pin, an embroidered NBU Jacket, a life member hat and the NBU decal.
- **Bronze Ram** – A Bronze Ram member receives a lifetime subscription to the NBU Journal, a Bronze Ram Life Member Lapel Pin, a life member hat and the NBU decal.

**Bronze Ram Lifetime Members** may up-grade their membership to Silver Ram and to Gold Ram levels by one time donations or by annual donation installments of \$500.

A portion of your membership is tax deductible, please consult your accountant.

**Yes!** I wish to become a Member, or renew my Membership, with Nevada Bighorns Unlimited at the level indicated below:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
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City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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Or Visit Us At Our Website: <http://nevadabighornsunlimited.org>



**Do you think these bighorn sheep are thirsty?**

**Don't make Nevada's wildlife wait for your support!**



*Past NBU Director & Water Development Manager Mel Belding and NDOW Biologist Jason Salisbury*

# Join NBU Today!

Over the last forty-two years, NBU has grown to become the largest grassroots volunteer sportsmen's organization in Nevada, and quite possibly the country! Through the support of our members, NBU has raised millions of dollars and logged literally thousands of volunteer hours to benefit Nevada's wildlife. In the past five years alone, NBU has funded and actively participated in numerous big game capture, relocation and survey projects, water development and enhancement projects, Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge wild horse control, made equipment and repair donations essential to NDOW, participated in disease outbreak and prevention programs, funded wildlife research including bighorn sheep, mountain goats, elk, mule deer and sage grouse studies, supported sound science predator control programs, awarded youth scholarships and contributed to youth hunting and fishing forums, as well as participated in numerous range restoration projects.

The efforts of NBU have directly contributed to Nevada currently having well over 11,000 bighorn sheep within our borders. That is more bighorn sheep than any other state in the lower 48! NBU has been largely responsible for transplanting bighorn

sheep in 80 of the 86 mountain ranges in Nevada that bighorns call home. But NBU is not only about wild sheep! Through the donations and participation from concerned sportsmen and sportswomen such as you, NBU has increased opportunities to hunt big and small game animals, as well as otherwise enjoying Nevada's wildlife experience.

You can become a member of NBU in four different ways:

- (1) By attending our Annual Fundraising Banquet in the Spring of each year;
- (2) By making a donation to the Annual Fundraising Banquet;
- (3) By volunteering your time one day a year on a project sponsored by NBU to perpetuate the mission of the organization; and finally
- (4) By joining using the application form on the adjacent page or via our website at <http://NevadaBighornsUnlimited.org>.

Please help NBU perpetuate our mission to protect and enhance Nevada's wildlife resources for sportsmen, outdoor and wildlife enthusiasts for this and future generations.

Thank you for your consideration.

## Join Nevada Bighorns Unlimited & Support Your Nevada Wildlife!

*~ Sportsmen working for the future of Nevada's wildlife ~*



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