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NBU JOURNAL

NEVADA BIGHORNS
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Letter from the Editor



Your board of directors have been working diligently to bring new and exciting things to you for 2025. We will have a larger booth at the Sheep Show in January with games, raffles and merchandise. We are working closely with Scheels to bring you bigger and better raffle items for our banquet. The Ewes have several fun ladies and youth events being planned. Stay up to date by subscribing to our email list or following us on social media.

As we close out the year, I hope you all had an enjoyable hunting season. As responsible hunters, we know that it is not always about shooting the biggest deer or getting your limit of chukar the fastest. It is about being ethical and sometimes passing on animals to give them the opportunity to mature. It is about making memories around the ones you love and disconnecting from our hectic lives. It is about ensuring the future generations have the same opportunities we do and the ability to learn through youth programs. NBU can't thank all of you enough for your support over the last 45 years. I truly cherish the relationships I've fostered with many of you over the last several years. Everything from working together at guzzlers to the phone calls to share stories are appreciated, and you all know who you are. Thank you and Merry Christmas.

Lydia Teel

Cover Photo by Miranda Crawford



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



This year was a blur as usual. We all get very busy between our personal and professional lives. Take some moments to reflect on 2024 when you can.

Conservation partners are making big moves in Nevada to close out 2024 and move us into 2025:

- Sheep are moving like crazy! NDOW and western region partners are busy augmenting populations to ensure the healthiest chance for survival and propagation of healthy herd dynamics. Wildlife do not recognize imaginary map lines, so interstate and interagency coordination and cooperation is crucial to the success of these projects.
- Nevada translocated Rocky Mountain Goats (*Oreamnos americanus*) from Utah into Elko County in November. Another successful project!

Big game hunting seasons are drawing to a close. Hopefully you had the opportunity to partake in the beautiful outdoors that Nevada has to offer. Get out and chase some birds if you can this winter!

As NBU directors we begin to tackle the task of banquet planning. Our annual fundraising banquet is **Friday April 18th, 2025**. (Good Friday.) We look forward to planning another successful fundraising event.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Love your family and look out for your neighbors. We all benefit from a strong community.

Thank you as always for your support!

Evan A McQuirk, DVM

SAVED the DATE

2025 NBU Annual Fundraising Banquet 45th Anniversary

April 18, 2025 - 5:30pm
 Peppermill Resort and Casino

If you have a table, directors will be reaching out to you in early January 2025.

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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.

Scott Jeannes



Summer Pellett



Brett Long



Peyton Barragann and Layton Hanifen



Steve Duncan, Elle Wass, Roxie, Kevin Agrella, and Ed Wass



Shane Bohach



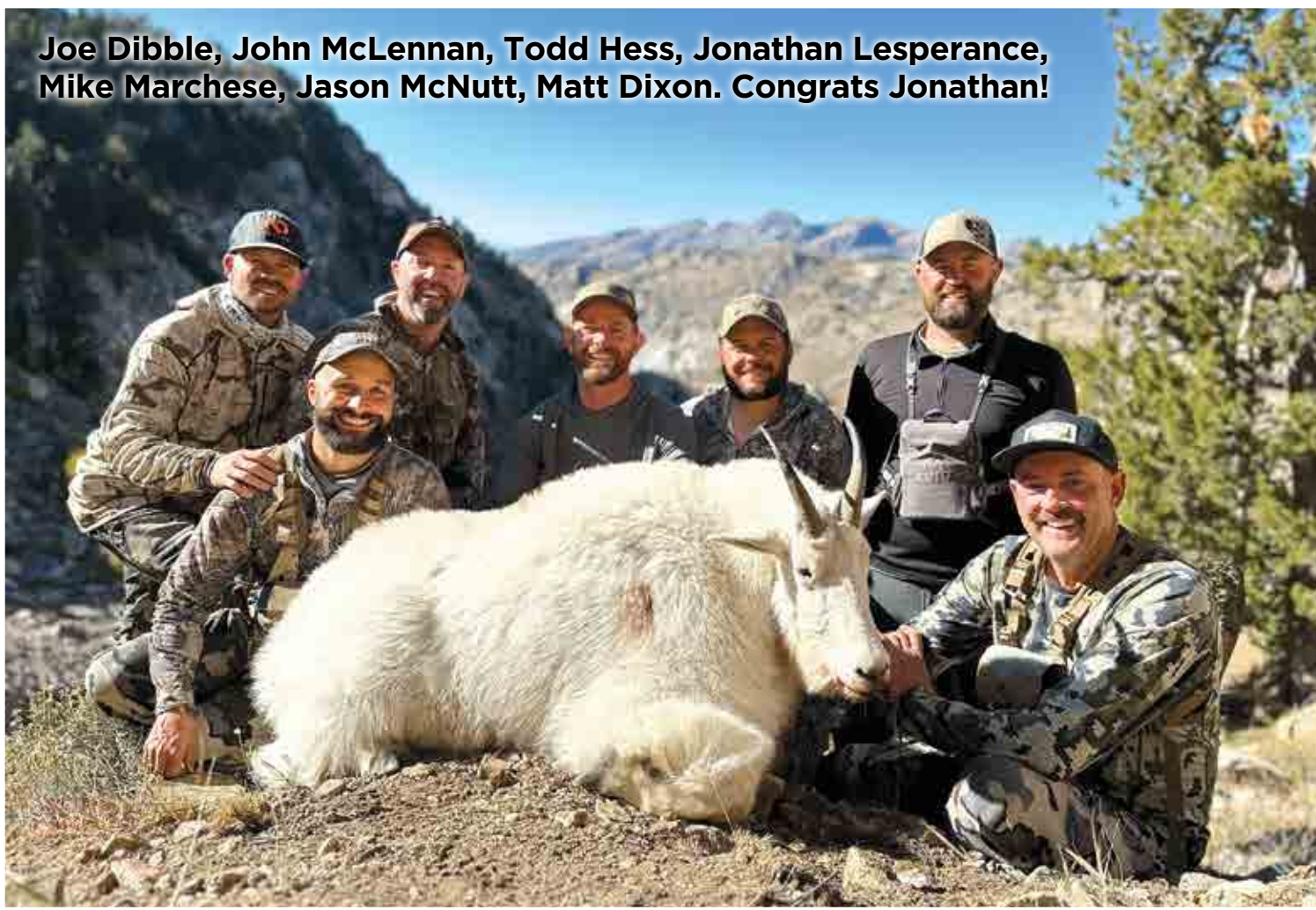
Caleb Van Kirk (Idaho)



Chuck Jeannes



Joe Dibble, John McLennan, Todd Hess, Jonathan Lesperance, Mike Marchese, Jason McNutt, Matt Dixon. Congrats Jonathan!



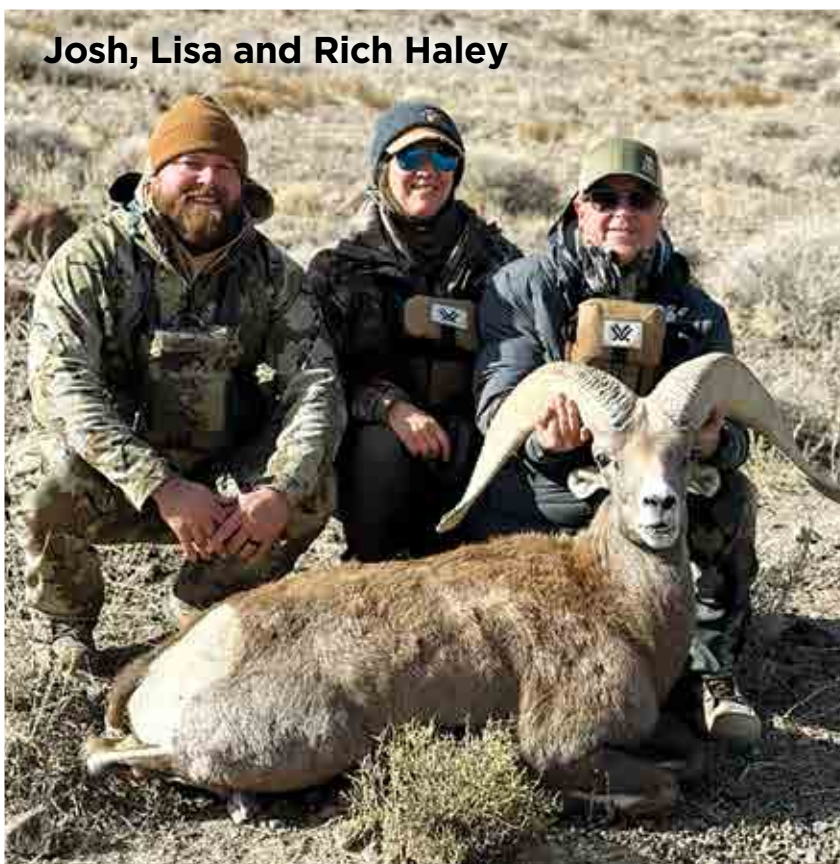
Caleb Van Kirk and Ariel Castro



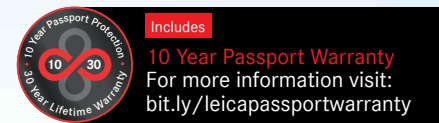
Matt Jeannes



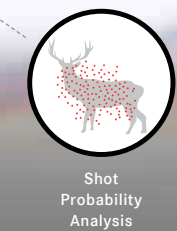
Josh, Lisa and Rich Haley



Erin Van Kirk



NEW!



Shot Probability Analysis

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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 a double header hosted in September by Dennis and Val McIntyre to celebrate Keith Perks and John West. This group has been on the Gold Ram circuit lately! Every year for the last several years, there has been a Gold Ram Barbecue dedicated to one of their party members. This group is a good time, and they sure know how to throw a party. We had a record 11 Gold Ram members jammed into one photo! Good food, many laughs and memories made rounded out a great evening. Many thanks to all the folks who contributed to making this dinner a success.

Thank you to Keith and John for your contribution to Nevada's Wildlife!



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GOLD RAM MEMBERSHIP PAYMENT PLAN

\$2,500 Gold Ram Membership - Monthly (\$210) automatic payments for one year.

Once the payment plan has been completed, Gold Ram members receive a lifetime subscription to the NBU newsletter, a Gold Ram NBU Nevada Slam jacket, a Life Member hat, a personalized wall plaque, a life member pin, an NBU decal and one complimentary ticket each year to the annual banquet and auction. NBU also has a Gold Ram raffle each banquet for a specialty item. All Gold Ram members are entered and do not need to be present to win.

SILVER RAM MEMBERSHIP PAYMENT PLAN

\$1,500 Silver Ram Membership - Monthly (\$125) automatic payments for one year.

Once the payment plan has been completed, Silver Ram members receive a lifetime subscription to the NBU newsletter, embroidered jacket, a life member hat, a Silver life member pin, and an NBU life member decal.

BRONZE RAM MEMBERSHIP PAYMENT PLAN

\$500 Bronze Ram Membership - Monthly (\$42) automatic payments for one year.

Once the payment plan has been completed, Bronze Ram members receive a lifetime subscription to the NBU newsletter, a life member hat, a Bronze life member pin, and an NBU life member decal.

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Years ago when I first heard of moose in Nevada I said to myself, "Yeah right? What moose will leave Idaho, cross dozens of paved roads, jump an untold number of barbed wire fences and take up residency in the driest state in the US? No way! The next thing you know-pigs will fly!" I thought the initial moose sightings were fabricated by a drunk elk hunter trying to make their name for themselves. How wrong I was! As time passed, more sightings were reported and pictures popped up on the internet. Over the past years, Nevada Department of Wildlife officials determined the moose in Nevada were numerous enough to support the issue of two bull moose tags in 2024 to Nevada residents. With that news, I along with thousands of other wishful Nevada hunters, checked the appropriate boxes and forwarded funds hoping against extremely long odds to be the lucky recipient of a moose tag. But the cards didn't fall my way this time. Recently, two very lucky hunters filled their moose tags. I don't know them but if they are reading this story, I extend my congratulations. I figured the chances of me even seeing a moose in Nevada were pretty close to zero.



In June I found out no big game tags are coming my way. Fortunately, a friend of mine, Lynn Cunningham draws a bull elk tag in Area 075 north of Wells, the Snake Mountains. In addition, his grandson Dane draws a youth mule deer tag in the same area. We talk about the hunt several times over the course of the summer and early fall. Friends and family are invited to join the hunt. Plans are made, and we make our way to the assigned hunt area during the third week of October and make camp.

On the second day of the season, a bull elk is spotted along with a number of his girlfriends. The distance and terrain is manageable for the overall age/condition of our hunting party (70+ / barely breathing) and a stalk is made. Lynn and I close the distance but when the chips are on the table, we are busted by four unseen spike bulls in a nearby ravine. The remaining elk stand and depart at a high rate of speed over the horizon never to be seen again. The hunt is over with no shots taken. Curses and head shaking follow.

We look at the side x side far above us where we left our companions. It is too steep and too far for a couple of old men to tackle and we decide to walk out of the canyon following the bottom of the drainage. After an hour or so, I am in the lead following a cow path. Suddenly a dark spot off to my right catches my eye and I comment to Lynn that there is a dead cow ahead of us. We take a few steps and Lynn says, "That isn't a cow, that is a dead bull moose." We are stunned by the discovery and are momentarily beyond words. We inspect the moose carcass; no wounds are noted aside from a missing left ear. The body is stiff with some minor scavenger activity, and we estimate his death approximately four days prior.

I dig through my pack, find my radio and call our companions on the canyon rim informing them of what we found. I tell them to call the NDOW office in Elko and ask the authorities for instructions. A few moments later, our companions tell

us no game warden is available and someone from NDOW would be in touch that evening. We are told to leave the carcass as is, note its location and general condition. We snap a couple of photos of the moose and proceed to meet up with our hunting companions. Once there, none of us can believe what has happened and make our way back to camp.

That evening (Wednesday), a NDOW game warden calls and gives his name, Quinn Hesterlee. He asks for our names and general location then inquires about our discovery. He explains he cannot meet us for a couple of days due to his busy schedule saying he will call us early Friday afternoon and make arrangements to meet. We ask if we can keep the antlers, and Quinn says that depends on his findings. If it turns out the moose was killed out of season, then the antlers will be kept as evidence. Wednesday evening, Lynn's son (TW) and grandson (Dane) arrive at camp. We decide to devote the next day hunting mule deer hoping to fill Dane's tag. On Thursday, we manage to glass a handful of bucks which might fill the bill.

Friday morning myself, Lynn, TW and Dane leave camp at first light and find a spot which affords perfect glassing conditions over very good deer cover. Within moments, we spot a group of eight deer in the distance, one is a buck mule deer. Dane takes a look through the spotting scope and agrees to make a stalk with his father. They depart the side x side, leaving me and Lynn to watch events unfold through our optics. About 40 minutes later, we hear a shot in the distance and a radio call comes through, "Buck down, come and help!" With Dane's first deer tag filled, we field dress the deer then make our way back to camp and await a call from Warden Hesterlee. He calls about noon and we make arrangements to meet him in a couple of hours. Lynn and I drive to the prearranged meeting place and introduce ourselves. We ask the warden if it is ok if the balance of our hunting party can join us and he says ok.

We make a short drive and as we prepare to hike to the dead moose, I notice Quinn pull garden shears and a metal detector from the back of his truck. I understand the need for a metal detector, but I wonder about garden shears. I am about to find out in fairly short order. After a 20 minute hike, we arrive on scene and Quinn takes a moment to talk to our

group. He explains this will be his first moose investigation and our patience is requested. We are free to ask questions, take pictures and help him with field dressing the moose.


the hide from the left side. No bullet wounds are seen on the exposed rib cage but Quinn notes there is very little body fat and comments that it is unusual given the time of year. Next, he removes the front left quarter and sees a tear in the hide above the hoof near the first joint. The wound appears old and is badly infected. Quinn next removes the rear quarter looking very closely for trauma and none is found. The garden shears are used to clip each rib from the spine and Quinn opens the body cavity. Then he removes each internal organ and examines them carefully-no trauma is noted. His attention turns to the left front chest area which shows signs of heavy tissue damage.

Quinn probes the area slowly with his hands and discovers a hole about the size of a half dollar. The metal detector is waved over the area, but no tone is heard. Finally, after about an hour and a half with darkness closing in, Quinn tells our group it is his opinion the bull died from injuries sustained during the rut. In short, the combined injuries of the missing ear, damage to his left front leg, puncture to the chest area and little body fat led to the death of the moose. In other words, no game violation-we keep the antlers! What a day! Our group helped tag a buck mule deer for a twelve year old boy in the morning and the moose antlers are coming home with us!

Quinn starts the investigation by waving his metal detector over the carcass and it tones as if metal is present. Our hopes fall on keeping the antlers, but Quinn explains the metal detector is more than likely responding to the large body mass of the moose. Next, he starts skinning the moose by making an incision along the length of its spine and removes

In closing, I would like to compliment Warden Hesterlee on his thoroughness, patience and professionalism. In my opinion, he is a credit to the Nevada Department of Wildlife and more specifically the law enforcement staff of NDOW. Although no bull elk tag was filled during our time in the field, we had a very successful hunt and one that we won't forget.



 Brit N Tina Forrester (@skedaddlesetters)

NEVADA BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSION NOVEMBER MEETING SUMMARY

The Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners, a 9-member, governor-appointed board, is responsible for establishing broad policy, setting annual and permanent regulations, reviewing budgets, and receiving input on wildlife and boating matters from entities such as the 17 county advisory boards to manage wildlife.

Chronic Wasting Disease Update

For the 2024 mule deer season, 295 samples have been taken to date. Currently results have been produced for 223 samples - all negative for CWD. 40 of those samples were from the transportation restriction zone. 2 moose samples were taken - both negative, and 26 elk samples were taken - all negative. CWD staff is also scouting for roadkill for additional sampling efforts.

Coyote Contest

The second coyote contest committee meeting was held on November 14th in Reno. The meeting lasted 4 hours and had 32 people in attendance with several others online. There were 28 comments given during the public comment period, 16 in favor of leaving contests as is and 12 wanting ban in person. Roughly 246 +/- emails were received with 222 requesting a ban and 24 wanted to keep contests as is. The Humane Society gave a presentation in favor of ban, whereas, the counter presentation showed details of what contests are about and how they operate.

There was some discussion on requiring a license or providing more guidelines and regulations around contests. The main suggestion was to focus on social media and ethics that shed negative light on contests. Commissioner Booth attended a contest in Winnemucca and provided the Commission with the extensive rules sheet from the contest. This contest also had a licensed trapper onsite who took the pelts rather than discarding them.

The next committee meeting is in Elko on January 14, 2025. There was heavy discussion around possibly dissolving the committee after this meeting because there are strong opposing views with little solution. The Commission would like rural Nevada to have an opportunity to hold a workshop.

2024 Wildfire Report

In 2024, there were 747 statewide fires that burned 99,948 acres. 299 of these were natural starts, 410 were human caused and 8 are still under investigation. For the 2024 statewide fire rehabilitation, there were 21 different funding sources with 12 funding partners. Rehabilitation occurred on 28 fires with 28,038 acres of herbicide being completed and 40,783 acres reseeded (ongoing). A total of 68,821 acres will be treated by the end of 2024-2025 winter. The presentation by NDOW staff provided treatment rational and figures showing how a rehabilitation and reseeding occurs after a burn.

Emerging Technology

Chief Game Warden Kristy Knight provided a presentation on emerging technology and the effects it has on harvesting wildlife. A summary of the various types of trail cameras was provided along with the laws enacted in 2018. Night vision technology is becoming more readily available and more inexpensive; however, law states that thermal night vision violates fair chase in all species: game, nongame and unprotected. Smart optics with range finders within binoculars and scopes are also becoming more available and are currently allowed. Electric bikes are quiet and effective, but NDOW has found that people think they are legal in wilderness areas when they are not. NRS states that it is unlawful to harass or shoot at game mammals or game birds with a manned or unmanned aircraft. NAC states that it is unlawful to use a manned or unmanned aircraft to spot game mammals, game

birds or fur-bearing mammals for the purpose of hunting from July 1 and the last day of February. There are provisions for this that allow for certain individuals to use aircraft for specific duties.

Policy 67 Feral Horses and Burro Update

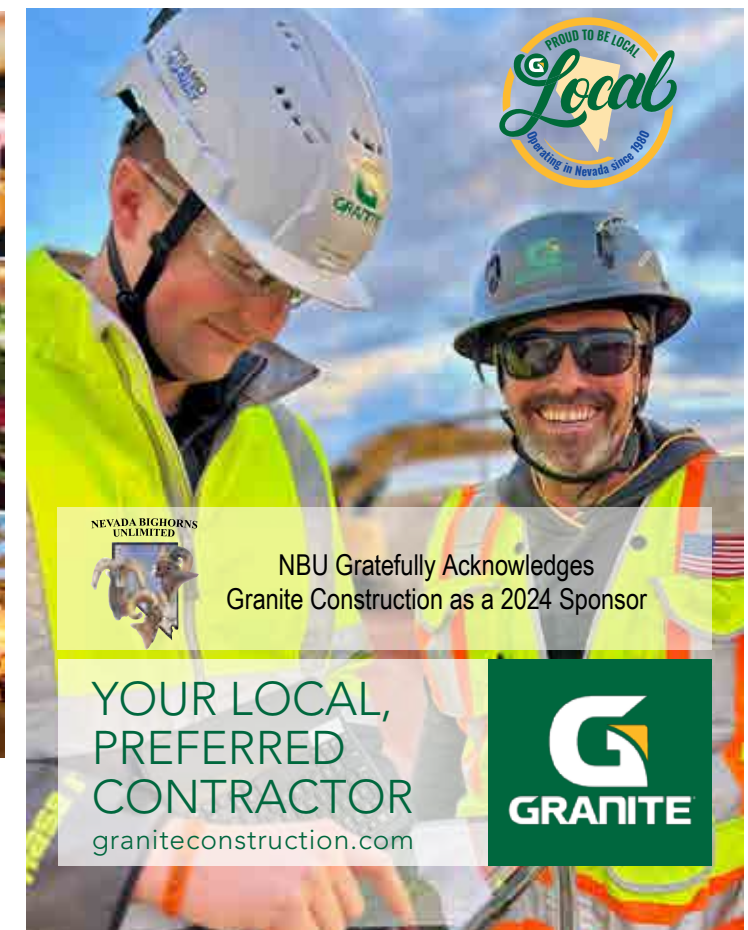
NDOW Wildlife Staff Specialist Amanda Gearhart provided an update on Policy 67, which supports compliance with the Wild Free Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971. It calls on NDOW to prioritize a list of HMA's with habitat for Lahontan Cutthroat Trout, Sage Grouse and other threatened or sensitive species. This presentation provided an overview of estimated on-range horse populations broken down by agency/land. Each agency has its own set of challenges including lack of funding, litigations, ecosystem damage, and holding issues. NDOW doesn't have any authority or management decision over the horses, but they partner with federal agencies to perform restoration on the range. This includes herbicide, seeding and riparian restoration. NDOW is tasked to provide information on gathers where there is priority based on sagebrush obligate species habitat, greater sage-grouse priority habitat, mule deer and pronghorn migration corridors.

The Commission decided to draft a letter to send to all delegations and public land agencies regarding the Commission's concerns about the detrimental impacts horses have had on the landscape highlighting areas of critical concern.

Next meeting is January 24-25, 2025 in Reno and will highlight Big Game Seasons and Regulations.



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WILDHORSE MANAGEMENT FOR HEALTHY RANGELANDS AND WILDLIFE

By Alison Hardenburgh

Nevada is the driest state in the United States. It's vast stretches of sagebrush steppe are some of the largest undisturbed swaths of Sage Grouse habitat left in the West. Many big game animals and unique bird, fish and amphibian species make the mountains and basins of Nevada home. As a state mostly made up of high desert, water and forage are the limiting factors for the viability of all living things on the landscape. All animals, plants and birds depend on and share the often, scarce resources.



A Wild Horse on an overpopulated degraded range

Wild horses and burros also have their place out in the wide-open spaces on our State's public lands and are legally protected by the passage of the **Wild and Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971 (WFRHBA)**. Familiarity with the law regarding wild horses and burros is a great starting point for those who would like to educate themselves about wild horse management and is available to read online.

Horses and burro numbers managed to the original **(AML)**s, appropriate management levels, would be ideal and solve many of the problems we are seeing with degradation of habitat and critical riparian areas that are essential for all wildlife. Nevada has the privilege and burden of having the largest populations of wild horses and burros in the U. S. There are 177 **(HMA)**s, Herd Management areas, and Nevada has 77 of them. When the **(WFRHBA)** was passed, the carrying capacity or number of wild horses in Nevada was set at 12,800. While this number

fluctuates with gathers and foaling, the current number of horses in Nevada is broken down in the following table. burros. In March 2024, BLM updated their Nevada number to be approximately 33,338 horses and 4,685. Whichever number you look at, the number is far above the original number set which has contributed to degradation of rangelands and negative impacts to our native wildlife.

	Number of HMAs/WHBTs	Acres (millions)	Max AML	Current On-Range Population
BLM NV	83	15.6	12,811	43,693
BLM CA	11	1.3	1,478	2,741
USFS Region 4	16	1.06	850	3,600
NDA	1	0.284	550	3,900
Total NV	111	18.2	15,689	53,934
National BLM	177	31.6	26,785	73,520
National USFS	53/34	2.5	2,400	10,000
Total On-Range	230/211	34.1	29,185	87,420*

*Includes NDA population

If the BLM were allowed to gather the horses and get the number of wild horses and burros down to AML in every HMA, the ability to use fertility control instead of gathers would be a real possibility. With numbers far above AML this is not a practical or workable solution. Fertility control can help to stabilize populations but is not effective in reducing them. Nevada gathers from November 2024 - January 2025 are in the table below.

Gathers – BLM Nevada

Herd Management Area (HMA)	Start Date	End Date	Animals Planned to be Gathered	Animals Planned to be Removed	Animals to be Treated with Fertility Control	Animals Planned to be Returned to Range	Gather Method	Fertility Control	Purpose
Darting Operations									
Pine Nut Mountains					50	50		PZP	
Nuisance Gathers									
Buffalo Hills HMA	11/15/2024	11/20/2024	33	33	0	0	Drive Trap		Nuisance
Jackson Mountains HMA	11/5/2024	3/30/2025	35	35	0	0	Bait Trap/in House		Private Lands
Planned Gathers									
Buffalo Hills HMA	11/15/2024	11/20/2024	235	127			Drive Trap		High AML
Triple B	11/1/2024	12/21/2024	1,387	1,337	25	50	Drive Trap	GonaCon	Progress toward AML
Maverick-Medicine	11/1/2024	12/21/2024	968	918	25	50	Drive Trap	GonaCon	Progress toward AML
Fish Creek HMA	1/6/2025	1/13/2025	190	144	23	56	Drive Trap	GonaCon	CTR / AML
NEVADA TOTAL			2,848	2,594	123	206			

What can we do as sportsmen and women to ensure that balance is maintained on our public lands? We must be a strong voice for responsible management of the horses and burros along with all wildlife on the lands managed by the BLM. Balance must be achieved and then maintained to protect the health of our rangelands, wildlife and yes, even the horses themselves. There are many opportunities to engage in positive action:

- Write your Legislative Representatives asking for responsible Wild Horse and Burro Management. Ask that priority is made in budgets for management.
- Respond to Public Comment requests from the BLM on planning for Herd Management Areas asking for responsible management.
- Attend public meetings such as the Wildlife Commission meetings and make public comments.
- Educate yourselves and others on Wild Horse and Burro management issues.
- Make observations when in the field and report any issues you are seeing to appropriate parties, BLM and NDOW for example.
- Engage with and support efforts by the sportsmen organizations that are striving for balanced management of our resources and wildlife.
- If you are able, and need a new ranch, pack, or hunting horse consider adopting a horse from the BLM adoption program. They are sturdy and sure footed and could fill that spot in your string.



Young Wild Horses at the BLM Off-Range Corrals at Indian Lakes in Fallon Nevada. Many horses like these are available for adoption.



Healthy Wild Horse on a healthy range





EAST HUMBOLDT RANGE MOUNTAIN GOAT AUGMENTATION

By Mike Cox, NDOW Statewide Bighorn/Mountain Goat Staff Biologist & Ed Partee, NDOW Game Biologist

Let me first take you back in time to the very beginning of mountain goats introduced into Nevada. Only six mountain goats captured in 1964 and another six in 1967 from the North Cascades in Washington state were the humble beginnings of the herd in the Ruby Mountains. For the East Humboldts (EH), a single release of 11 mountain goats from Olympic National Park occurred in 1981. Due to challenges in the capture efforts and transportation to Nevada, likely not all survived their first few months. Though not native to Nevada, both mountain ranges have a great deal of suitable mountain goat habitat!

Both herds combined reached their highest population level in 2009 at around 400 adults. A disease event in 2010 and prolonged high mortality of kids (died of pneumonia during first 4 months of life) through 2019 caused the EH herd to decline from 120 down to 50 adults by 2019.

A Test and Remove project was initiated in the EH Mtn Goat herd in early 2020 but through ground kid surveys beginning in 2021, good kid numbers were finally detected again and it was presumed that the last remaining chronic shedder of *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* (*M. ovi.*) had died of old age in 2020. Aerial and ground surveys have shown high kid survival since 2021. Both Scott Roberts and now Josh Kirk, the new Area 10 game biologist, have organized several summer kid surveys since 2021 with teams of biologists and volunteers spreading out to get eyes on as many nanny nursery groups as possible. The 2 kid surveys in summer 2024 were highly successful in documenting high production and recruitment of mountain goat kids in the EHs.

Unfortunately, single digit kid ratios from 2010 through 2019, "hollowed out" the age structure of the adults. It is estimated that over half the nannies in 2024 are 9 years or older with most goats having life span of 10 - 12 years. We feared that even though we had good kid recruitment the last 3 years, we would lose half the nannies to old age and would stymie the herd recovery. Therefore, we reached out in summer 2023 to a few western states asking for source stock and Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) stepped up!

In Fall 2023 we received UDWR commitment and soon after met with USFS Humboldt Toiyabe Forest (HT) Staff to start a dialog with them. USFS HT was neutral on the augmentation but understood the situation and our desire to help the herd recover sooner than later. The Nevada Wildlife Commission approved our proposed EH mountain goat augmentation in January 2024. The first virtual coordination meeting occurred in April 2024 with UDWR to discuss the capture effort. We agreed to collaborate on evaluating the genetic diversity of both source and transplant herds in the Tushars and EHs (including Ruby Mountains), other herds west wide, and the original herd in state of Washington. Meetings and coordination efforts ramped up in September and October. Private land release sites were identified with pros and cons depending on weather and access for trailer. Days leading up to the capture involved final preparation of the transport crates, basecamp gear and supplies to collect critical samples, and sedatives to chill the goats out for their transit back to Nevada. The transport crates built for bighorn sheep almost 20 years ago would be used to keep the animals safe from injuring each other with their sharp horns (2 in each crate with divider door).

The day before the capture, game biologists, wildlife health staff and volunteers drove over to Beaver, Utah for an evening coordination meeting to run through the process and do's and don'ts. With what seemed to be a blink of an eye, the capture day arrived! It was a bluebird day. We all drove up from Beaver on a winding road that gained almost 5,000 ft elevation. It had snowed the day before at the basecamp site and when we arrived in the early morning light, a snowplow was clearing the upper parking lot of the Eagle Point Ski Resort that would be our basecamp. As usual, initial chaos turns to quick decisions on multiple fronts: where animals are to be dropped, fuel truck, processing tables next to the trailer and transport crates, hay bales for loading, weight scale, collar preparation, sampling gear, and assigning duties to the 50+ people that included both UDWR and NDOW staff and strong contingent of volunteers from both states.

Heliwild capture company from South Africa, the primary helicopter capture crew for both Utah and Nevada was there to conduct the most important part of the event, capturing the goats in the snow-covered rocks and cliffs, with down-draft winds. But their highly skilled pilot, gunner, and mugger were up to the challenge. They are truly talented and dedicated to their craft!

As with all big game helicopter captures, the first flight in of animals slung underneath is very exciting to get the day started. Each animal first had garden hoses put on their horns to protect basecamp staff. Then they were weighed and taken to the processing tables. Oxygen canula was placed in their nostril to help with breathing and reduce stress, nasal and pharyngeal swabs taken, and blood collected which is not an easy task with their long, thick hair. All the animals were in good body condition. Only one nanny had an injury that was sustained a week or 2 before the capture where she had broken one of her horns at the base of her skull. It was infected and veterinarian cleaned the wound with hope she will be ok. All adults received an ear-tag and GPS collar. Vital rates and rectal temperatures were taken and monitored. Temps of all the goats was below any extremes indicating the capture crew was doing a quick job to net the animals once they located a group on the mountain. All animals received 2 sedatives - Midazolam and Haloperidol to reduce stress and mellow them out for the drive back to Nevada. Finally, each animal was loaded into a transport crate. A team of biologists, using a pickup tailgate and haybales, would maneuver the goat into the crate, surrounded by team members with the hobbles, horn hose, and blindfold being removed and the gate door quickly closed.

After capturing 7 goats, the crew came back from hunting the steep, rugged ridge-tops and cliff bands with no goats slung underneath. The wind had picked up and was pouring down the windward side of the ridge preventing safe conditions and shutting the operation down for a bit. We discussed options like trying to hunt another site that was lower but more trees. The crew ended up going back up and doing a fantastic job capturing 5 more goats to make it a dozen before the wind grew too strong and the capture was called off. So glad the crew made the second effort to get 12, just 3 shy of our goal. We left the basecamp at about 2 pm and got into the Ely NDOW office yard about a half hour before dark. We broke up block ice and dropped the pieces into every compartment in case the animals wanted to lick them to hydrate themselves.



The next morning, as much as we wanted to get the goats released ASAP, we would have to wait for the test results which was its own adventure! I had asked Greg Smith a few days before if he would be willing to be our courier to deliver the samples collected at the basecamp to the Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Lab (WADDL) in Pullman, WA. He gladly accepted the challenge. The day of the capture, Greg was helping out and at 12:45 pm, he was to take the nasal, blood, and pharyngeal samples in a soft cooler with blue ice down the mountain to the UDWR fixed wing pilot waiting at the Beaver Municipal Airport. Then the pilot flew Greg to the Salt Lake City airport, drove him to the Alaska Air gate, which we had booked a flight for Greg to Pullman via Seattle. The cooler was pulled aside by TSA but after looking inside, they said "you are good to go". Greg got into Pullman at midnight, then another wild sheep colleague swung by his hotel the next morning to grab the cooler and by 8 am, the samples were being processed by the lab. Greg flew back to Reno that afternoon and evening with mission accomplished. We were told it could be as late as 3 pm for getting word from the lab on test results. We needed all of them to be negative for M. ovi.

Back at the Ely NDOW yard, all the goats were in good shape and alert. The trailer and a few support pickups took off to Secret Pass to meet the large group of folks for the release. As we turned off US Hwy 93 onto SR 229 to head to the East Humboldt Range, we got a call from Dr. Ginger Stout, UDWR wildlife veterinarian. She relayed the message from WADDL that all the nasal swabs were negative for M. ovi. It was only 12:30 pm when we got the great news! Several trucks with many volunteers including several kids were waiting for the mountain goat trailer to arrive. We gave a few quick handshakes to retired NDOW colleagues and volunteers and then the procession started up the canyon to the release site. The release would occur on the newly acquired public access corridor for Pole Canyon and the upper Franklin River drainage thanks to Ecotrust Forest Management (EFM) and NDOW's Habitat Division staff. The ground wasn't frozen and the wet greasy mud made it very challenging to get the large and heavy transport trailer up

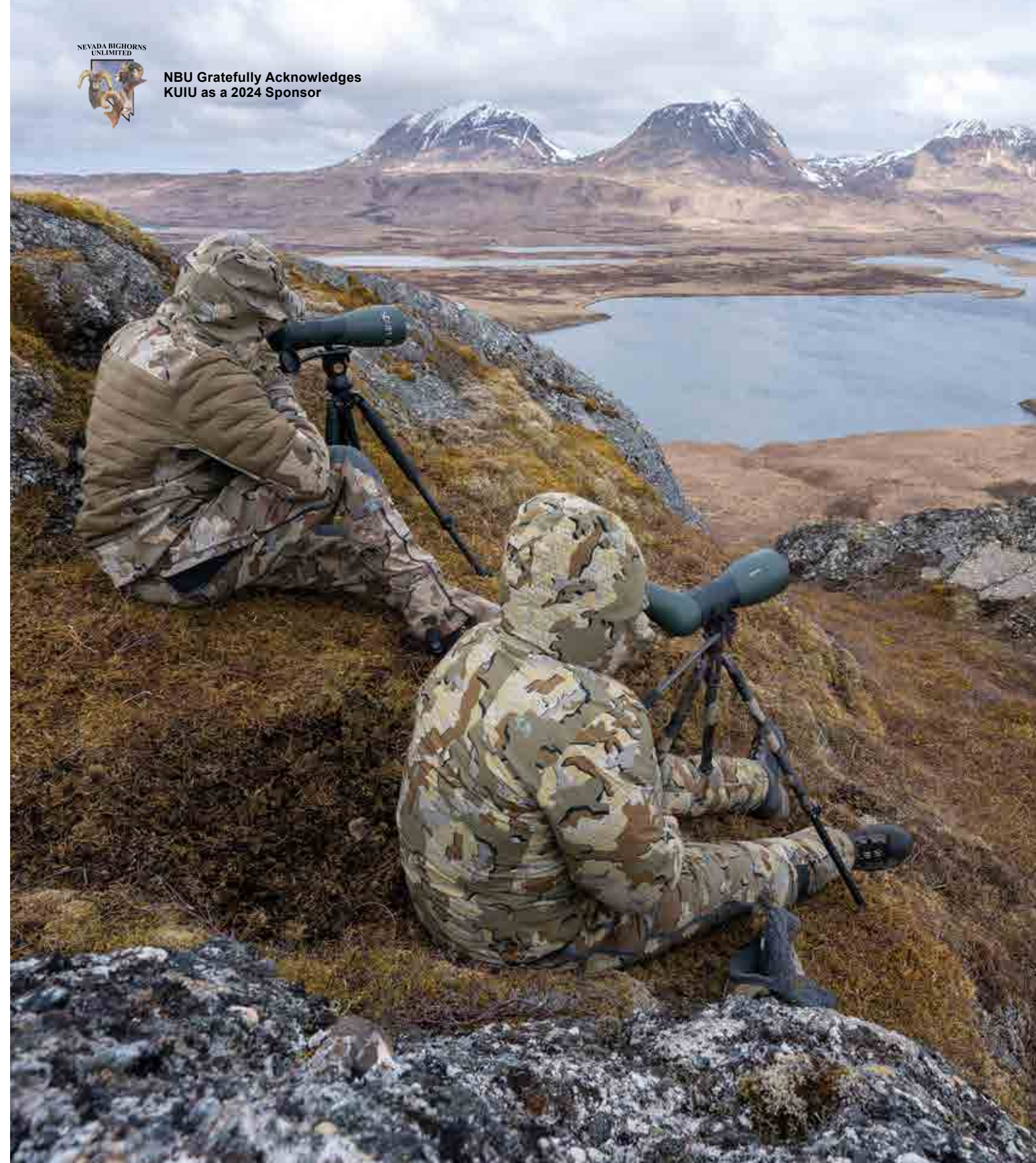
the canyon. Ed Partee, seasoned game biologist driving the haul truck did a masterful job hauling the trailer as high up as possible in the canyon. One side of the crates was positioned to open to the north with all the families, children, and volunteers making a human funnel to direct the goats upslope. In short order, all were in place and the doors on the first side of the crates were opened with nannies, yearlings, and kids jumping out to the ground and running into their new home. The trailer was quickly spun around 180 degrees and the second side of doors were opened releasing the remainder of the goats. There ended up being 3 mountain goats that turned south and ran downslope. Best-laid plans of mice and men often go awry! All involved, especially the kids were all smiles to have experienced a once in a lifetime mountain goat release into the wilds of Nevada! Later that afternoon a decision was made to have a skeleton crew of game biologists return to the Tushar Mountains 3 days later to receive a few more mountain goats. That Sunday, 1 nanny, 2 yearlings and 1 kid were captured, processed, loaded into 2 crates, transported back to the EHs, and released on private land near Angel Lake on the north end of the mountain.

Daily monitoring of the GPS collars the first 2 weeks showed a mixed bag of movement by the goats with some grouping up and heading toward Humboldt Peak. Two different goats forayed off the mountain down to the valley only to head back up to ridgelines where they were originally. We had 3 collared mountain goats and their kids from the release that crossed south to Secret Peak in the north end of the Ruby Mountains with a couple continuing south of Soldier Peak. The 4 mountain goats released at Angel Lake, headed south to Chimney Rock, then down to the valley, back up the same day and in 3 days ran the EH ridgeline all the way down to Hole in the Mountain. They also interacted with a group of resident goats with GPS collars which was exactly what we had hoped they would do.

Thanks to Elko Bighorns Unlimited, NBU Fallon, and NBU-Reno for funding and participating in the once-in-a-lifetime mountain goat capture and translocation!



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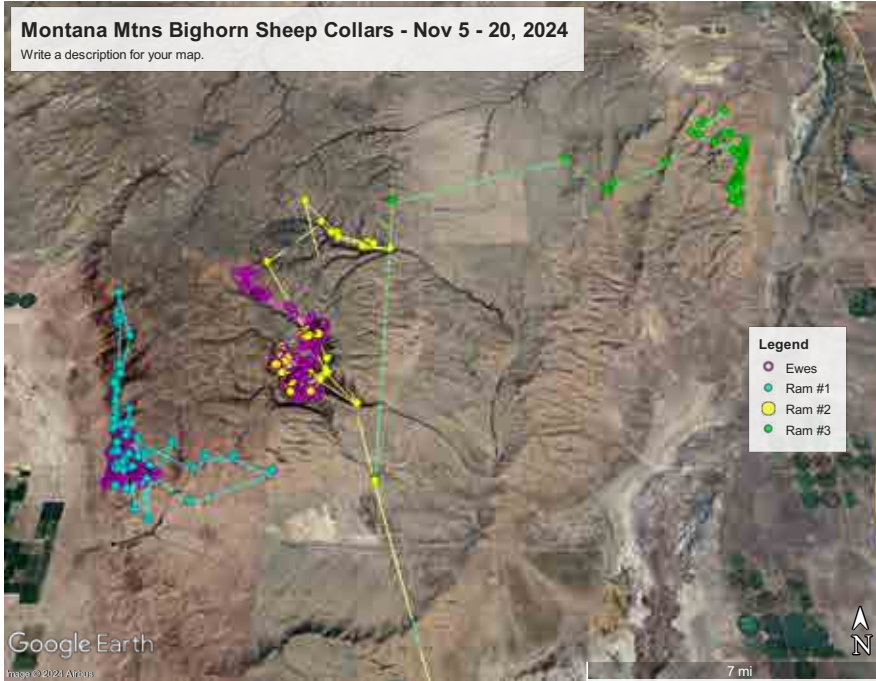


UPDATE ON MONTANA MOUNTAIN'S BIGHORN HERD RESTORATION EFFORTS

By Mike Cox, NDOW Statewide Bighorn/Mountain Goat Staff Biologist

Back in March 2024, 15 ewes and 3 young rams were captured from the Sheep Creek Range and translocated the next day to the Montana Mountains. All the sheep ran off like champions from their transport crates that were slung to the top of the mountain for the release directly into their preferred habitat. Months prior to the release, a USDA-Wildlife Services lion specialist was canvassing the area in search of mountain lion sign. Their role was to remove any mountain lions that were found to help the small group of native bighorn grow to a viable herd size. The sheep would need to learn where all the escape terrain occurs, good foraging areas, water sources, the best routes to move between all these areas, have high survival, and successfully raise lambs to build to a level that could sustain lion mortalities. Prior to the release, 3 lions were removed. The lion specialist returned right after the release and removed an additional lion to protect the small, translocated bighorn herd. Later in the fall between October and November an additional 3 lions were removed.


All 18 bighorn received a GPS collar so that their movements and survival could be monitored. In late April, all the pregnant ewes gave birth and through the fall months a high number of lambs survived. Exactly what we had hoped would occur. Unfortunately, we have had a series of adult mortalities that began in early August. The first ram to die was from an unknown cause. His carcass was completely intact when investigated the day after the GPS collar sent a mortality message. A second ram was killed in mid-August but due to a collar/satellite communication malfunction, no mortality message was received until one week after its death. A mountain lion likely killed the ram. On 8/26, a ewe died and like the first ram, her carcass was untouched by any predator or scavenger 2 days later. Four days after that, another ewe mortality occurred and was confirmed to be by a mountain lion at the bottom of Rock Creek. The last of the 3 rams died on 10/22, again by unknown causes. The ram fell off a cliff, rolled down a talus slope and landed on a patch of shrubs. The 3 bighorn that died completely intact without any predation are speculated to be from a virus called Bluetongue that is transmitted by insects, like midges, associated with stagnant water. Though tissues from some of the carcasses were submitted for testing, none came back positive for Bluetongue. With all 3 rams dead, and the breeding season



imminent, a decision was made to capture 3 additional rams and transplant them into the core bighorn ewe use area in hopes of not losing an entire year of lamb recruitment in 2025. NBU-Reno graciously paid for the helicopter capture that occurred in the Virginia Mountains on November 4. The next day NDOW's helicopter slung the 2 transport crates with the 3 rams to the top of the Montana's and they were released. Within a few days to a week, 2 of the rams based on GPS collar data were in amongst the 2 main ewe groups daily as shown by the map of GPS locations of both ewes and rams. The third ram unfortunately forayed over to the Hoppin Hills to the east and never returned before the rut period was over. We are confident that the 2 rams bred the majority of the ewes, but we will be eager to get out late spring 2025 to confirm lambs hitting the ground from a hopeful successful experiment.


In addition to all this chaos on top of the mountain, a known threat to the new bighorn herd that was scheduled to arrive in early fall indeed did to Kings River Valley (KRV) in mid-September. Approximately 2,800 domestic sheep lambs were trucked and off-loaded to graze on private alfalfa fields until January 2025 within a few miles of the newly reintroduced bighorn sheep on the Montana Mountains (MM). They are managed by 2-3 herders with guard dogs. While on a field, they are confined by a portable 3-strand electric fence. Once a field is grazed down, then the lambs are herded to another field in the valley. Even though only lambs are in the fields, bighorn may become curious and wander down to check out the domestic sheep. The threat of disease transmission would be greatly increased if adult domestic sheep ewes were brought to the valley to graze and be bred.





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JAMES LATHROP AND WAYNE CAPURRO MEMORIAL INTERNSHIP

This internship program is designed to provide those graduating high school seniors or current college or university students that have a sincere interest in pursuing a career in wildlife management an opportunity to earn funds to help support his/her college education. Selected interns will become paid seasonal employees of the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW). They will receive 'on-the-job' training to provide them with practical knowledge and experience to enhance their college studies and future career.

Nevada Bighorns Unlimited (NBU) underwrites a portion of this internship program which is co-named in honor of one of their founding members - James Lathrop. Additional funding support is provided by the Nevada Wildlife Record Book and is also named in memoriam for one of their founding members - Wayne Capurro. Both men made outstanding contributions to wildlife management through their roles as hunters, volunteers, organizers and advisors to the Department, the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners and the many wildlife-oriented organizations that mutually support the sustained health of Nevada's wildlife resource.

Here are six brief summaries of year end reports from interns. To read the full reports, visit www.nevadabighornsunlimited.org

BEAU BLADES



This was my first summer as a Lathrop & Capurro intern. I have always been outdoors, and when I heard about the internship, I was ecstatic to try it out. I would like to thank Nevada Bighorns Unlimited, Nevada Record Book, and everyone in the Elko and Ely NDOW office for making this summer possible. As I sit and look back on this summer, I would say it is one of the best summers I have had. I got to learn more about wildlife and learn new skills as well.

My first day I walked into the office nervous but ready to embrace what was to come. After a few hours of paperwork and meeting some of the biologists, I got settled into the bunkhouse there at the Elko office. I met up with Isaiah Werlinger and was off to Ely where I met biologist Ridge Ricketts where we were going to be assisting him for the whole week with mortality collar retrieval, lamb surveys, and elk incentive surveys. Ridge had us set points near Ward Mountain, White Pine Peak, and several others throughout the Pancake Range. I spent my first night up near Ward Mountain where we had deer walk through our camp and a nice look at the open sky. The following week I got to meet biologist CJ

Ellingwood. He had us go up to Ellen D Mountain to look for Rocky Mountain Bighorn sheep and pick up a mortality collar from one of the sheep. By the time we got up to the mountain it started to snow! Despite the weather Isaiah and I still tried to locate the sheep with telemetry. It was my first-time using telemetry equipment, but I found it very interesting and complicated.

Next, Isaiah and I were going back to Ely to help with the build of a guzzler. When we got to Ely, we headed straight for the building site. We got to the site and immediately started to help. I got to meet Biologist Kody Menghini along with the Eastern Region Guzzler Crew: Sam, Nick, Abby, and Dan. It was so much fun to build something that will help wildlife and to be able to do it with people that care made it even better. On the last day of the guzzler build Nevada Bighorns Unlimited along with Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation fed us breakfast, lunch, and dinner and had a raffle where people could win guns, hats, and tons of other prizes. The next week, I had the opportunity to meet and work with Biologist Josh Kirk. On our first day we were headed to Angel Lake where our task was to collect hair and fecal samples for mountain goats. We climbed through thick aspen trees, over boulder fields and finally summited the mountain. We looked around and glassed the top of Greys Peak where we finally saw a Billy. It was amazing to see a mountain goat in person. We watched him walk across the top of Greys Peak and meet up with another goat and then they dropped into a bowl. After glassing for a little longer, I spotted a snowcock with two little chicks. Next, Isiah and I conducted some spring surveys. As we drove to the first spring I was dismayed at the condition of the spring. There was no running water, it was stomped out and stagnant. Every other spring after that was in the same condition, so we filled out the surveys for the springs and headed back to the office.

We headed off to Ely to find domestic sheep around the Pancake Range. When we got there, we immediately spotted the sheep. We continued to follow them and even got within five yards of them. We had the wind in a perfect position where the sheep could not smell us. By the time the sun started to set we headed back to the truck and watched the Broom Canyon fire. The next day we hiked to find the sheep then hiked back to glass where we spotted them the previous day. This was an interesting experience for me knowing what domestic sheep can do to bighorns. I am beyond grateful for this summer and what I got to see and learn. I had great experiences with a lot of good people and got to see what my future could look like. I would like to thank everyone who helped me with the experiences and the new lessons and skills learned.

CHLOE CROOKSHANKS



As I finish up my second summer as a Lathrop & Capurro Scholarship intern, several invaluable experiences and opportunities I experienced flood my mind. I must first give a heartfelt thank you to the members of Nevada Bighorns Unlimited for the opportunity to be involved in the conservation of Nevada's wildlife. My work and learning this summer could not be possible without their generosity and devotion to young individuals with a passion for managing Nevada's natural resources. As always, a huge thank you also goes to NDOW and the several biologists and employees I got to work with in these past few months. Time in the field with these professionals is never taken for granted and has been a major contribution to my understanding of wildlife conservation.

This past summer, I was stationed in the western region of the state and was based out of Reno, Nevada. I spent time throughout the northern Washoe, Winnemucca, Carson Valley, and Incline Village areas. When compared to my last summer in Tonopah, I was able to experience a notable difference in habitats, wildlife densities, and species present between these areas. To start the summer, I assisted biologist Jon Ewanyk in a fence build in Northern Washoe, north of the town of Gerlach. We worked to construct a steel jack fence around a natural, flourishing spring that provided water for multiple ungulate species in this area. This fence was of high importance and was constructed to limit livestock and wild horse use. Several unprotected springs around Nevada similar to this one get trampled by feral horses which render the habitat into a muddy mess that is unsuitable for use by native species.

In the following weeks, I worked for biologists Carl Lackey and Becca Carniello, making our way around greater western Nevada and Carson Front area including Carson City, Carson Valley, Incline

Village, Stateline, and Reno. With Becca and Carl, I assisted with alleviating American Black Bear conflicts or concerns from the public. Some of the conflicts encountered included bears entering homes, pestering chickens or other small pets, getting into garbage, or frequently visiting residential neighborhoods. Becca and Carl demonstrated how to be diligent yet kind with every concerned individual. In my time spent assisting Carl and Becca, I was also able to help with the bear snaring project that occurs in the vicinity of Little Valley and Hobart Reservoir along the Sierra Nevada's between Reno and Carson City. This project included setting foothold snare traps at various locations in a habitat known to have a high density of bears and regularly checking the snares for caught bears. I learned about generational bear trails that are frequently used and the advantages of using these trails when setting foot snares. We set snares at natural pinch points and often on the print of existing trails. I quickly found that setting the traps was extremely tedious with many factors to carefully consider such as the mechanism of the throw arm and cable or human scent. I learned how it is crucial to never walk near the set which could carry scent elsewhere rather than the set path. I also learned some valuable tricks and tips from the biologists for a successful catch. Upon a successful catch, the process of working up and processing the bears was similar to what was employed with trapping them in town. The biologists ensured that the processing was completed in a timely matter, making sure bears stayed cool and calm while under sedation. When complete, bears were given time alone to comfortably wake on and get on with their day. Because of the density of bears in this wilderness area, this project is vital for ongoing bear research in this part of the state.

From conducting field surveys, to monitoring ungulate populations, and assisting in successful habitat projects, my work with the Nevada Department of Wildlife this summer has again resulted in a very special experience. The knowledge and skills I have developed, alongside the mentorship from seasoned biologists, has prepared me to take the next steps in my education and career with confidence and a sense of purpose in the conservation world. Another summer as a Lathrop & Capurro Scholarship intern has not only solidified my commitment to wildlife conservation but has also equipped me with the tools necessary to contribute meaningfully to the profession in the future. I am extremely grateful for the people, the organization, this wonderful state, and all its wildlife. Once again, my gratitude extends to the members of Nevada Bighorns Unlimited and everything they do to mentor individuals like myself.

HAILEY LATTIN



To begin this report, and to close out my final summer in this program, I would like to personally thank each and every person involved in the creation and cultivation of the Lathrop Capurro internship program. Nevada Bighorns Unlimited and the Nevada Record Book are the main sponsors of this position, and I am ever-so-grateful for their support and continued endorsement of Nevada's youth and hopeful future wildlife professionals such as myself. I would also like to thank all of the amazing individuals that I've had the pleasure to meet, work with, and learn from throughout my time working for the Nevada Department of Wildlife. Finally, I would like to thank Montana Strozzi, my partner for the summer, she is one of the most ambitious and hard-working women I have ever met, and I cannot thank her enough for the laughs and memories made this summer.

This year I had the opportunity to work in Tonopah for game biologist Hunter Burkett. Hunter is a Master's student and currently working on a research project involving the dietary analysis of mule deer in Nevada. To help Hunter gather data, Montana and I collected samples from collared mule deer across central Nevada throughout the summer. Collection of data consisted of hiking into remote locations where Hunter's selected collared mule deer were summering and locating fresh fecal samples for accurate analysis. Due to the month to month change in vegetation, we collected from these same deer several times from June to August.

We had the privilege of joining biodiversity biologist Michael West on both Railroad Valley toad and Columbia spotted frog surveys. Michael taught us how to find, capture, measure, mark, collect data, and release these species; just a handful of the skills that Michael practices in the biodiversity division. Another large project we were able to participate in was the Able Creek fisheries project. Through genetics, NDOW has been able to boost native trout species, Lahontan cutthroat trout (LCT), while reducing invasive ones, brook trout in the case of Able Creek.

During our time in Tonopah, we also had the opportunity to observe and physically work with bighorn sheep. The biggest threat to Nevada wild sheep populations is the many deadly strains of pneumonia that are passed from domestic to bighorns, and bighorns to other ranges. These bacterial infections are detrimental to populations across the state, particularly in lamb recruitment. Our job was to locate collared sheep near Tonopah and observe them for clinical signs of pneumonia. This sort of feet on the ground and direct visual observations allows managers to predict which populations are sick, at risk, or thriving, and how to conduct further management options. In late June, Montana, Hunter and I, were invited to Overton to assist in a bighorn sheep capture. For this capture, NDOW partnered with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources to provide twenty healthy bighorn sheep, to both increase Utah's struggling populations and decrease the high population in Nevada's Muddy Mountain range. Higher population numbers of bighorn sheep can often lead to increased transmission of diseases and other epizootic illnesses such as pneumonia, as well as increased competition for resource availability. For these reasons NDOW decided it would be beneficial for both Nevada and Utah bighorn populations to participate in this relocation project.

Now that my internship has come to a close, I'm looking back on the people I've met, the experiences I've shared, and the knowledge I've accrued over the last two summers, and my only thoughts are thankful. Once again, I only feel it necessary to express my deepest appreciation for everyone who has been involved in this program and this opportunity, as well as all the folks I worked with in the department, and beyond. I cannot wait for what the future holds, and I can only hope my career path will continue in wildlife management and conservation!

HANNAH MCCOY



My amazing summer as a Lathrop/Capurro intern with the Nevada Department of Wildlife started off strong as the first captured bear of the season was caught the night before my first day. On my first day, my partner and I were assigned to go pick up the trap from South Tahoe and bring it back to Carson to process the bear. Before we processed it, we gave the sow a proper dose of xylazine mixed with Telazol to put her to sleep. With the game biologists we were assisting, we efficiently kept track of the bear's temperature, heart rate, and oxygen while she was under. We also used the wear on her teeth as well as her size to determine her age. Then, we gave her a wildlife health tag and a call before consuming tag on her left ear, as well as an identification tag on her right ear. We drew her blood, and then we waited for her to wake up. My first release was such an adrenaline rush! On my second day, we released the sow in her home range in Tahoe and hazed her with the Karelian Bear Dogs named Banjo, Badger, and Dazzle. It was so exciting!

Soon after that, my partner and a biologist and I received a call that there was a bear trap that was improperly set in Incline Village. We went to reset it as we conversed with the homeowners about the specific bear that had been tormenting them. They described it as a lightly colored yearling who had absolutely no fear of humans. I looked over my shoulder, and sure enough there was a lightly colored yearling walking directly towards us! We slowly backed away, the bear calmly followed the bait into the trap, and we drove back to Carson to process it!

During the first week of July, the crew that runs yearly Columbia spotted frog surveys in the Toiyabe mountains was in need of more help, so my partner Chloe and I, as well as the two southern interns, Montana and Hailey, all got the chance to go assist in that project. We camped Monday through Friday and captured hundreds of frogs throughout the week. Over the course of the 9 weeks, I worked as an intern in the western region, Chloe and I surveyed chukar and rabbit populations. We drove around Pyramid Lake and Gerlach on assigned routes looking for chukar. Along with chukar, we saw plenty of other wildlife species like lizards, sheep, as well as other bird species. Although we paid the most attention to the individual chukar and trying to identify their class and age. We also did this same process with sheep in the Virginia Range.

We drove around and glassed in multiple different spots and documented the gender and age of the sheep we saw.

We also got the chance to use telemetry to track down a dropped sheep collar in the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge. We used the coordinates that the area biologist sent us to begin our search and then we narrowed it down with telemetry. Eventually we found the collar on the top of a hill and made our way back down. Another instance that we used telemetry for was our sheep surveys in the Montana Mountains. We were given a list of all the frequencies to pick up on and used the telemetry to find each of the sheep on the list and document their location.

My last week of work, the Southern and Western region Interns assisted in the Abel Creek Lahontan Cutthroat Trout restoration project. We spent the week surveying stream transects and removing the non-native brook trout because they were posing too much competition and strain on the LCT population. At the end of the week, we replenished some of the brook trout with hatchery brook trout that were modified to have YY chromosomes. This was done to eventually cut down the population size of brook trout in Abel Creek and it was a wonderful learning experience for me.

Overall, my summer as a Lathrop/Capurro intern in the Western Region was very eventful and productive! I learned so much and met so many amazing people and lifelong friends. I would like to thank Nevada Bighorns Unlimited, The Nevada Record Book and the Nevada Department of Wildlife for giving me this incredible opportunity and for allowing me to gain this spectacular experience that will carry with me for the rest of my life.

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ISAIAH WERLINGER



With the sun setting upon the horizon on yet another wonderful summer, three months of amazing experiences, people, and places were had. It is amazing how fast time flies when you're involved in something you are passionate about. I was fortunate enough to spend my third summer as a Lathrop in the Eastern Region of Nevada again, and further build on the experiences from the summer beforehand. I want to thank the Nevada Bighorns Unlimited, The Nevada Record Book, Nevada Department of Wildlife, for the cooperation of all these agencies that allow the Lathrop/Capurro program to exist and benefit us with life-changing experiences. This summer taught me a lot about reinforcing what I already know, questioning what I do not know, and learning how to be a teacher.

I was fortunate to be part of Nate LaHue's Wildlife Immobilization and Drug training. This presentation exposed me to a ton of new information regarding the handling of immobilized wildlife and certified me in immobilization agent handling, while also helping to reinforce things that I learned in my first summer as a Lathrop when working with bears in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. I was introduced to the formula that is used to create the appropriate ratios of mixed drugs, as well as how to determine how much of a drug to use based on the type of animal and its weight. This allowed for a perspective on what occurs during a wildlife immobilization scenario in the field where the Wildlife Health team would create the appropriate dosage on the fly.

We headed toward Ward Mountain to camp out before searching for the collar in the morning. While searching for the collar in the morning we were navigating to it via GPS point, and this caused it to take a bit longer to find. But upon locating the mortality quickly it became apparent that this mortality was a mountain lion cache. Upon reaching the Pancake Range, we met with Area 16 Biologist Ridge Ricketts and proceeded to head further into the mountains to locate the first group of ewes and lambs. We located this group of ewes with a composition of 5 ewes to 2

lambs on the first evening before calling it a night. The sheep survey in the pancakes lasted another two days; however, we never located any other sheep across our survey of the rest of the range. Thus, after the conclusion of this survey, we headed back to Elko to gear up for the following week.

This next week allowed for one of my coolest experiences as a Lathrop ever, as we were working in the field with Area 6 Biologist Travis Allen, performing a moose calf survey. It was June 17th, and we headed out toward Merritt Mountain first thing in the morning, hoping to catch the cow moose and her calf out in the open. This cow was collared so it aided us in locating her via telemetry, to which Beau and I got an in-depth lesson on using telemetry to locate a living animal from Travis. After roughly a mile we began to receive a clear signal from her collar, using this we gained the receiver down and began to hone into her location more precisely as we made our stalk across the hillside. Upon reaching a glassing knob with a great view of the opposing hillside, we left the telemetry on, and while listening to this, we glassed the hill for hours trying to observe the cow and calf from a distance. When this tactic didn't yield us a view of the moose, we (Travis and I) hiked across the ridge following the telemetry signal until we walked into where the cow and calf were bedded. Upon doing this, both animals busted out of the aspen grove, and we got eyes on her calf and drone footage of both animals. This moment was one of the highlights of my summer as I got to experience flushing a moose, alongside the one-on-one learning and perspective a biologist has when approaching a situation like this in the field.

The final two weeks of my summer were finished by performing chukar surveys to the north and south of Battle Mountain, NV. Working for both Matt Shanks and Travis Allen we were first tasked with performing a good handful of chukar routes in the Toiyabe Range. A chukar survey simply consists of driving a designated route during the hottest parts of the day, observing, listening, and counting chukar as you come across them.

To conclude my end-of-year report I would like to again thank Nevada Bighorns Unlimited, Nevada Record Book, the Nevada Department of Wildlife, and its Biologists for presenting the opportunity to learn and be a part of the amazing Lathrop program. The experiences had, as well as the knowledge gained through each summer in this program have truly impacted and further inspired me in the field of wildlife management. There is truly no other opportunity like this, and each summer allows for the further development and refinement of skills that you would not otherwise be present with learning simply by just being in a classroom. Nothing beats being out in the field.

MONTANA STROZZI



I have always had a passion for wildlife, and I started testing the waters of career paths last summer. I got a job at NDOW on the stream survey crew in Winnemucca, NV last summer, where we worked mostly with Lahontan Cutthroat Trout. I had the best time, and the job definitely helped me realize wildlife conservation is the path I want to go. This summer I decided I wanted to get some experience in a different field, so here I am. I have always loved game species as I grew up hunting, and they are ultimately what sparked my love for conservation. The Lathrop and Capurro Internship gave me the experience I desired with the game division, and I couldn't be more grateful.

I started out the summer with high hopes as I was stationed out of Tonopah, NV and that is my hometown, so I felt very comfortable and familiar. I knew the biodiversity biologist and the game warden out of the Tonopah office already, but I was super excited to meet the game biologist Hunter Burkett who I was going to be working for. The first couple weeks consisted of lamb surveys and deer fecal collection. A lot of our summer consisted of walking to a specific GPS point and finding fresh deer fecal to collect. Although this doesn't sound glamorous, I became very invested in the quality of the samples that were taken and how the data sheets were filled out.

In the next few weeks, we had a lot of different things we got to do. Railroad Valley Toad surveys being one of my favorites. These toad surveys were conducted after dark. We walked through the survey sections with spotlights and caught the toads as they would pop up. These surveys are done as mark/recapture, so as we would catch them, we would scan the toads to see if they were already tagged. If they were not tagged, we would tag them.

We headed to Overton NV to assist in a sheep capture. This capture was to remove 20 sheep out of the area and relocate them to Utah, to help them with a project that they have going on. We started the capture at 4:00 A.M. It was a super early morning, but it was totally worth it. Once sheep started getting dropped off to us from the helicopter, most of the day my job was to keep the ice towels cold and to distribute them onto the sheep. We headed straight back to town to get ready for our backpacking trip up Jefferson to conduct some more lamb surveys. It was a challenging hike up considering the elevation was 11,600 ft! It was one of the coolest experiences ever. It was raining and hailing on us up there, but I couldn't be phased. We saw a lot of sheep up there and got plenty of time behind the glasses on that trip as well. Also this week me and Hailey were tasked with collecting a collar off of a dead deer.

I was happy to be back in Tonopah and working with Hunter again for our last week of work. We spent our last few days conducting fecal sample collection again. I spent my last day cleaning our work truck out. That thing looked brand spanking new (with a few scratches of course)! After many miles of hiking, multiple flat tires, lots of nights camping under the stars, and countless laughs and smiles our summer had come to an end.

This experience couldn't have happened without a few important people and organizations! I want to say thank you to Nevada Bighorns Unlimited, the Nevada Record Book and Nevada Department of Wildlife for making this internship possible. Also thank you to Hunter Burkett for putting up with Hailey and I this summer and sharing your knowledge with us. Thank you to all the biologists, game wardens, and everyone else we got the chance to work with this summer! You all made this experience one for the books! The things I learned this summer are so valuable for my future career and life in general. I wouldn't change it for the world.



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SCHEELS SCHEELS Spotlight

SCHEELS is a major sponsor of the NBU Banquet and also a great partner of Nevada's wildlife. NBU will be running a SCHEELS Spotlight every journal issue to thank them for their support. Learn about their wonderful employees and the hunts that they have experienced!

It was hunting season 2023 the day tags were coming out. I work at SCHEELS, in Sparks, NV, and most of the crew upstairs spend a lot of their time hunting, and I definitely don't exclude myself from that. When the email came through, you can bet I took my 15 minute break, along with just about everyone else in the store that put in for tags, to check the tag results. My jaw was on the floor when I saw I was lucky enough to draw a depredation elk tag in 144/145, out towards Eureka, for the mid season - October 1st - 31st. I was excited, to put it mildly, this is the second elk tag I've drawn in Nevada, which is very rare for a lot of people, especially someone my age.

process of hunting themselves. The scouting trip wasn't a total waste, we did see some cool things while we were out there, and we were able to get a solid game plan laid out for the start of the season. We knew where we were planning on setting up, what we were planning on hunting and how we were going to execute everything. We headed back to Reno and the prep for the hunt, that was only one short month away, started.

October 1st: Opening day is finally here; we are more than ready. We headed out and set up the tent trailer out to the middle of 145 and set up camp the night before so we



The next day is when the prep work, on my end, started. I was hiking every day, working out harder than normal and making sure I was doing all of the necessary research for a successful hunt.

About a month before the season started, my boyfriend, Andrew and I went out and scouted the area we thought we would have the highest chance of an elk being there, we were sadly mistaken because we didn't see a single elk on this scouting trip. While we were in the area, we talked to a couple of hunters that had the early season and they mentioned they were seeing tracks; however, they weren't planning on sharing more than that since they were in the

would be ready to go. We woke up bright and early and went to the top of a mountain range to scout and see if we could pick up an elk anywhere in the hills. We didn't have much luck on the first day, there was a lot of cloud coverage, so we headed back to camp and got a good night's rest.

October 2nd: My dad made it to camp today and we went along the same path as yesterday, headed up to the top of the mountain range, glassed up the area, checked the guzzlers in the area and had no luck. We headed to the lower ground to check the springs there, we did see some antelope; but still no elk. We walked some more and did

end up picking up a track or two that could have been a young bull or cow elk, however, never ended up catching up to them and no one was responding to bugles, so we ended up heading back to camp for the night. From there my dad headed back to Reno for work the next day.

October 3rd: By this point our other hunting buddy, Matt Dixon, was there and we did a couple more tries of the same mountain range before heading into 144 to check out the flats and the Strawberry mountain range, which ended up turning up very few results, considering most elk don't live in the flats of Nevada.

with my dad there, and we glassed the entire flats and hillside. There were some deer that turned up but so far there wasn't any sign of elk in these flats, which was pretty normal for a depredation elk - being it's a pretty small population of elk. We saw some other hunters in the area that had been sitting near the guzzlers in our area and hadn't seen anything. They said there were some tracks coming through the night, but no one had seen an actual elk in the area yet.

October 5th: We sat on a guzzler a couple of miles from camp, just trying to see if we could catch one coming in to get water since it was still pretty warm out. Unfortunately, we weren't lucky enough to catch an elk coming into the water, so we headed back to camp and talked about our options. We had been there for almost 7 days at this point and hadn't turned up anything. The morale was definitely down, and we were all pretty disappointed not being able to see any elk in the area. We noted that we had the entire month and could always come back out on weekends

October 6th: We gave it one last drive through the area before it was time to make a choice. I made the call that we were going to pack it up and head home since it looked like we weren't going to be filling the tag this trip.

October 7th: We packed up and headed home. We got home, cleaned up and took a much needed break to clear our minds before starting to talk about another game plan.

October 8th: At this point we had been home for less than 12 hours, not quite coherent yet, I heard my phone ringing. A couple of our friends that we work with, Gunnar and Lexey, had deer tags in the same unit. My emotions were all over the place seeing Gunnars name pop up on the screen. Did he fill his tag? Were they okay? Were they asking if we were still out there? Literally all over the place.

It was 7:00 am, and I answered the phone call from Gunnar. He sounded extremely panicked and asked what I was doing. Since it was 7:00 in the morning, I told him I was sleeping like a normal person on a Sunday morning, and he told me I needed to get out of bed and head back to Eureka as soon as possible because he just watched a giant elk bed in the flats.



October 4th: Matt ends up leaving and my dad was able to come back out for the next four days of the hunt. When he got there we headed into town to talk to some of the locals in the convenience store, in Eureka, who just about laughed in our faces for not only having an elk tag but asking about them in the area. They said they hadn't seen an elk in the area in roughly 10 years. All I could think was, this isn't the best case scenario for someone that was looking to kill their second elk in their lifetime. From there, we headed back out to Strawberry to check it out

Not thinking straight, I jumped out of bed, grabbed everything I could think of at that moment. I definitely forgot camo pants and didn't realize until I was already in my truck - but I remembered to put on a camo shirt, so we are counting that as a win. After booking it out of the house I

headed to my parents' house and told them what was going on and my dad said "we will be right behind you

and I'm going to tell your mother that we aren't going to do any of her plans today because we were going elk hunting instead". With shock on my face and sleep in my eyes, I chuckled and said good luck with that one and headed out the door.

Halfway to Fernley, Nevada, I got a call from one of my friends, Savana, who had heard the news and told me she was on her way to Fernley to grab all of her things and that she was ready to go help me fill my tag. I picked her up in Fernley and this was one of the first times that we had hung out without our significant others and groups of people, who happen to be brothers - she is now one of my best friends and I thank every day for her and this trip - and we booked it to Eureka!

We called Gunnar when we got to the gas station in Eureka and he said the elk hadn't gotten up, which had been about 4.5 hours since the first phone call from him. My hopes weren't super high since elk don't typically stay bedded super long, and he had been bedded long enough that he should have been ready to move along soon. We filled up and headed out to 144 and gave my parents the information - my dad said exactly what I was thinking, not to get too excited, there's a good chance the elk isn't there or won't be by the time you get there and to remember that we haven't seen him or any elk the whole week so this may have just been a really fun long road trip.

We drove out there and saw Gunnar sitting in the bed of his truck when we get to the spot he sent the pin of. He had a spotting scope set up near his coolers and showed me where he was and the pictures they got and gave me a general idea of where he bedded. Lexey jumps out of the car and tells us very similar things, so we took a look, grabbed the rifle and Savana and I headed into the sagebrush to try to get as close to the elk as possible, before he gets up.

We were about 45 minutes ahead of my parents and about halfway to the elk by the time they rolled in. On the way out to the elk we jumped about 30 does that ran straight over the top of this elk. Surprisingly - he didn't move. We panicked and sat down for a little bit making sure everything was going to relax, and he wouldn't take off running. The elk never stood, and we still hadn't seen him. We were second guessing ourselves and saying we were just chasing thoughts and what ifs at this point.

We walked about a mile from the road and ended up stopping for a second when Savana whisper-shouted, "I see him, I see the back tines on him!" We dropped right there and ranged to the bush in front of him, which was 90 yards away and he was definitely bedded.

We dropped our packs and set up with the shooting sticks that Lexey provided, to wait for this elk to stand. We waited for about an hour before we even saw him pick up his head, we saw his antlers start to move - I was kneeling at this point with my rifle just waiting for him to stand. He stood for about two seconds, and I was in awe, he was beautiful! As a shock to Savana and I, this elk bedded directly after standing and we waited for another 2.5 hours.

Around the tail end of the 2.5 hour mark, we realized we only had about 45 minutes of daylight left and we were

sitting there getting a little bored, naturally, and started to think we may be hallucinating since it was pretty warm out. Out of nowhere we looked off to our right and saw an object in the distance and Savana, who has never met either of my parents, says "Abby, I think that's your dad just standing out there." Sure enough, there he was in his blue t-shirt with binos, standing there giving us a back and forth look between us and the elk making sure we had seen him. This gave us some definite hope that we weren't just sitting there looking at the beautiful mountain range and the sunset. He was also double checking to make sure we had seen the elk and knew what we were doing, since this was one of the first hunts I had done without him right there with me - which was pretty exciting!

We finally stood, still waiting for him to get up, and started making some noise, hitting bushes, whistling but unfortunately, this stubborn elk just did not want to go anywhere.

Finally, with about 25 minutes of daylight left, he stood up and looked right at us, he was broadside and Savanaranged the elk about 135 yards, and I shot.

It sounded good, we heard the impact, and the elk took off about 50 yards. As he turned, I loaded another round - my dad always told me that if the elk is still standing there's a chase we lose him and to make sure you don't lose sight of him and are always prepared with another shot just in case. I sent another round down range and as this was happening the elk turned enough that Savana had seen the exit wound of the first bullet and he was going down. He went down and kicked his feet in the air for a little while. When he was still we looked at him, and I killed a giant 6x6!

Savana and I ran up to him, making sure he was dead before getting too close, and he was beautiful, 6 points on both sides, ivory tips. He was one of the biggest elk bodies I've ever seen, and I was very fortunate to have the opportunity to kill. I cannot thank Gunnar enough for giving up his last day of deer season to watch this elk for me and be a part of this incredible hunt. At this point, we took all the pictures and celebrated with everyone. This was also the first hunt my mom was a part of, which made it that much more special and exciting.

It was time to do the hard part, breaking down the animal. With the stress of frantically throwing everything in the truck that morning, I wasn't totally sure where all of the skinning knives were, so we broke the entire elk down with a mini bugout from Benchmade, which was quite the task because of how large the elk was. We finished breaking him down and got all of the game bags loaded and ready to go and headed back to the truck. Luckily, it was one of the easiest packouts I've ever been a part of. It was about 1.5 miles on flat ground, in sagebrush, in the middle of Nevada. We got him on ice immediately when we got back to the trucks and headed back to Reno that night.

I was super fortunate to have this opportunity, getting my second elk in Nevada, and I couldn't have done it without my friends and family there. I will be eternally grateful for this hunt and everyone that was part of it.



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Every season has an ending and with every new season brings new opportunity. Although we all hate it when hunting season comes to a close, we need to look at the “off season” as an opportunity for personal growth and development, as well as finding ways to boost our performance in the backcountry. Yes, the off season can be a time of rest and refocus, but it is also crucial to maintain your health and fitness because it is far easier to stay in shape rather than climb the high mountain to getting back into shape. We want to find ways to workout that are not only enjoyable, but effective in achieving your hunting/ outdoor goals, help you avoid injury, and keep your fire burning instead of burning yourself out and losing motivation. Here are some tips and tools that I find fun and effective to add to your off season training regimen.

GAIN LASER FOCUS

- It's important to identify and be aware of your personal strengths and weaknesses as a “Wilderness Athlete.” We want to develop a game plan to attack and improve those weaknesses, build strength, aid in recovery and rest current injuries during the off-season. If you do too much of anything too often you put yourself at risk for “burn out,” so train smarter not harder. Let's be real, training for hunting is training for a hobby that we love and enjoy. It's not our full time job, and our careers don't rely on training six days per week like other professional athletes. So planning 3-4 quality workouts per week with purpose will be plenty to keep the body in shape. I like to refer to training in a professional aspect mainly for the mental side of things. The more mentally focused and driven we are toward our goals the higher chance of success.
- Athletes are constantly working and developing their skills and craft. During the off season it's okay to slow down and go back to the basics. A primary goal for off-season improvement should be focusing on building stronger, better, more efficient foundations and routines. Slowing down can help you focus on the little things that you may have not been executing well, and in turn build them into bigger, better, more productive things. Addressing muscle imbalances is also key. We all have dominant sides, dominant arms, legs etc. We need to address the weaker sides to get them as equal to our strong sides as possible to avoid future injuries and create a healthy, strong balance in the body. Typically in the off-season your training regimen should decrease in frequency and duration, but still maintain the intensity. Recovery and strength building are key goals in the offseason, so take a little off of the overall duration of your workouts and put a little more time into extra recovery methods like foam rolling, mobility, stretching, icing, heating etc. Short bouts of high intensity training will maintain and/or improve your fitness levels and keep your competitive edge. I truly believe that proper dynamic warm ups, followed by foundational training followed by high intensity training and then capped off with an effective cool down/ recovery method is the most effective and long term longevity way to structure your workouts. Training SMARTER, not HARDER.

MIX IT UP, KEEP IT INTERESTING & ENJOYABLE

- If you're a long time lifter like me, or new to the game of fitness and exercise, it's important to constantly find new ways to be active and train your body. Not only to keep the body guessing and avoid plateauing, but also mentally, to avoid becoming bored, uninterested and unmotivated to workout. Switching up the routines can allow you to stay interested longer, making your fitness fun and allows for your injured areas to rest and move the focus to less worked areas of your body that need improvement. Some examples of mixing up your training includes adding/ subtracting weight, adding/subtracting reps and sets, switching up the order in which you train, changing the time of day you workout, incorporating new pieces of equipment to use, and adding new variables to your training like training barefoot, training in sand, training in water etc. You can try something totally different like yoga, CrossFit, jiu jitsu, kickboxing, spin class and many others. You will be surprised how different activities affect different muscle groups and how beneficial a good change can be!



ATLAS TRAINER

- In my opinion, the Atlas Trainer by the Outdoorsmans is hands down one of the best training tools that is directly applicable to hunting. We all know that in Western Hunting we have a weighted pack on our backs majority of the time, and the Atlas Trainer allows us to put heavy, balanced weight on our frames in a safe effective manner. Whether it's just going on a long hike and throwing it on my back to do push

ups, pull ups, farmer carries or squats this piece of equipment kicks my ass and prepares my body to do work with added weight. Save your hips, knees and lower back by using this frame compared to throwing rocks and sandbags in your hunting packs. Plus, you don't want to wear down your expensive hunting pack by training with boulders bouncing and rattling around in there. It's worth the money to buy the Atlas Trainer, trust me!

SAND TRAINING

- One of my favorite workouts is making the short trip up the Sierra Nevada mountains to go train on the sandy beaches of Lake Tahoe. Sand provides a different type of resistance that challenges your muscles. The instability and constantly moving sand beneath your feet engages your small, stabilizer muscles, incorporates more muscle fiber recruitment and helps improve your balance, improve joint stabilization and reduces the risk of injury. The unforgiving terrain of the west constantly leaves us battling uneven surfaces, unsure footing and vast elevation changes. Training in sand, in my opinion, is one of the best ways to mimic the western hunting environment and help build stronger and more stable feet, ankles and knees. The enhanced muscle fiber recruitment will also make your body work twice as hard, use more oxygen and therefore train your aerobic system, improving your cardio levels. I believe that sand training is a great

tool for improving speed and agility, specifically preaching the importance and drive of the “forward lean” in athletes. This forward lean can be important to hunters as well always pushing forward and onward up the mountain. I realize that everyone reading this article might not have access to a beach, but maybe you do have a sand volleyball court or sand play area in your town? Last, a few other added bonuses of training at Lake Tahoe that I just have to share. One, the elevation. The beach that my buddy Dave Beronio

and I like to train at sits at 6,400 feet above sea level. This fits the “Practice Like You Play” method that I believe in and training in environments that mimic “the game” or in our case, hunting on the mountain. Second, the dreaded, but rewarding cold water plunge into the lake immediately after training. Lake Tahoe is equivalent to a giant ice bath majority of the year. In the pictures above, the outside temperature was about 35 degrees and the water temperatures those days were roughly 41 degrees. By plunging into the ice cold water just briefly after the workout, you get a total body cleanse for your muscles, promoting enhanced blood flow and reducing inflammation. Your body becomes so cold for that short period of time that you feel hot and tingly, but once you return to the beach, you feel refreshed and surprisingly good!

TRAINING BAREFOOT

- It seems like common sense to always be training in athletic gym shoes or hiking boots, but every now and again take those babies off and train barefoot or in just your socks. Shoes provide support, cushion and stability that make our feet lazy and accustomed to the luxury. Going barefoot more often is not only more primal, but it can help improve your balance, your posture, improve the efficiency of your movement, and build stronger, more stable, flexible feet and ankles. “When you stimulate the nerves of the foot, you get a better understanding of what you're standing on and how you're stepping, and it starts to shape your overall movement,”-[Dr. Emily Splichal]. The big toes' primary function is to propel forward movement and in most shoes, it is limited in it's range of motion and ability to properly dig in and gain strength like you could barefoot. Strong feet means a strong foundation for your body! “Your brain registers strength and stability through the feet, as a point of safety and optimal connection to the world around you, so when you remove that connection, the brain thinks it lacks stability,”-[Steve Holiner]. By engaging more small muscles in the feet during lifts, you then recruit more engagement from your glutes, hips and core muscles, thus strengthening them more as well. In western hunting we are constantly on our feet, so why don't we pay more attention to them? We spend hundreds of dollars on the best boots and training shoes etc, but why not spend a little more time and effort to build up our feet and ankles naturally during our training?

CONCLUSION

- One of my favorite quotes from Coach P, our founder of Wilderness Athlete, is, “that which you pay attention to improves.” The off-season is a perfect time to pay attention to our weaknesses and work daily to improve them. It will take a solid, written game plan and laser focus but it can be done for every individual out there that is willing to put in the time and effort to make a positive change for themselves. Hopefully some of these different tips can help backcountry hunters to try something new, get over plateaus, eliminate excuses and “go further, stronger.” P.S. it doesn't hurt to find a badass training partner to help push you, hold you accountable, motivate you and help you feel a sense of accomplishment together. Thank you to Dave “Hollywood” Beronio for always kicking my ass and moving me forward. Stay Wild and get after it! - Coach Hoelzen

DIY MEAL FOR YOUR DIY HUNT

By McKinnon and Jenny Chappell

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.

The sun has set on our third long day of backpack hunting the wilderness. We are tired and starving, but the water starts to boil on the ultralight camp stove so I grab my beanie and Ziplock filled with my homemade dehydrated meal and pour the water in – only 10 more minutes until we can climb into our sleeping bags.

We've always preferred backcountry hunting to any other type of hunting. No matter if we end up with an animal on the ground or not, we always come back home rejuvenated from spending a week in the wilderness...except for our tummies which were wrecked from eating packaged dehydrated meals. Yes, they are convenient to just pick up at the store and pack enough calories to sustain us each night, but we kept thinking there must be a better way to enjoy a week on our feet without the stomach issues and bloating from an excessive amount of salt. It was starting to affect our performance during the long hikes in the hills all day. Not to mention feeling like we were constantly dehydrated and chugging water.

So, we created a plan to make our own dehydrated dinners for our backpack hunts. We thought that not only would it be more nutritious, but it would also save money compared to buying the premade store meals, and we were right!

Over the past 10 years, we have experimented and almost perfected meals that work for us and I wanted to share some tips/tricks if you would like to do this for yourself at home.

1. Make sure that whatever you are making has enough calories, carbs, protein, and vegetables to sustain you high level of activity in the backcountry. Our dinners end up around 800 calories and weigh 6oz.
2. When deciding what to make, try to use foods you eat regularly already. That way it isn't a shock to your system by eating food outside of your normal diet. Use the same amount of spices/seasoning as you would normally. Making your own backcountry food is also great for those with allergies or anyone who has diet restrictions, allergic to gluten, etc.
3. Some foods don't take to dehydrating or rehydrating well in the field. Examples we found of this are spiral noodles, asparagus, and cubed chicken. We shred chicken in our recipes now and it works great! We also use ground venison taco meat in our meals as it has low fat and high protein.
4. Come up with 2 or 3 different meals that work well for you, so you have variety and don't have to eat the same thing every night.
5. There are a few great websites such as backpackingchef.com that have great recipes, one of our favorites is Thai peanut noodles. We will look through the recipes and use them as a starting point and update to our liking.
6. Dehydrating: Do it in batches. We usually do batches of vegetables, batches of meat, batches of noodles, then lay them out buffet style and create our bags from there.
7. One excellent way to add flavor is to use an instant pot for the spaghetti noodles. We cook them by adding both bone broth and the peanut or spaghetti sauce in the instant pot. The noodles seem to absorb the sauce and broth and bring a lot more flavor when rehydrated on the mountain.
8. Use freezer grade quart sized Ziploc bags. This is important! The freezer grade bags are thicker and handle the hot water and dry noodles without getting holes in the bag. Make sure to always pack a backup quart freezer Ziploc in your pack just in case you do have a hole in one of the bags.
9. When you are ready to make your dinner while backpacking, add the water into your bag, stir, seal the bag and place it in your beanie. It's a great insulator and keeps your food hot without burning your hands.

Enjoy your homecooked meal in the backcountry!



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Youth IN THE FIELD

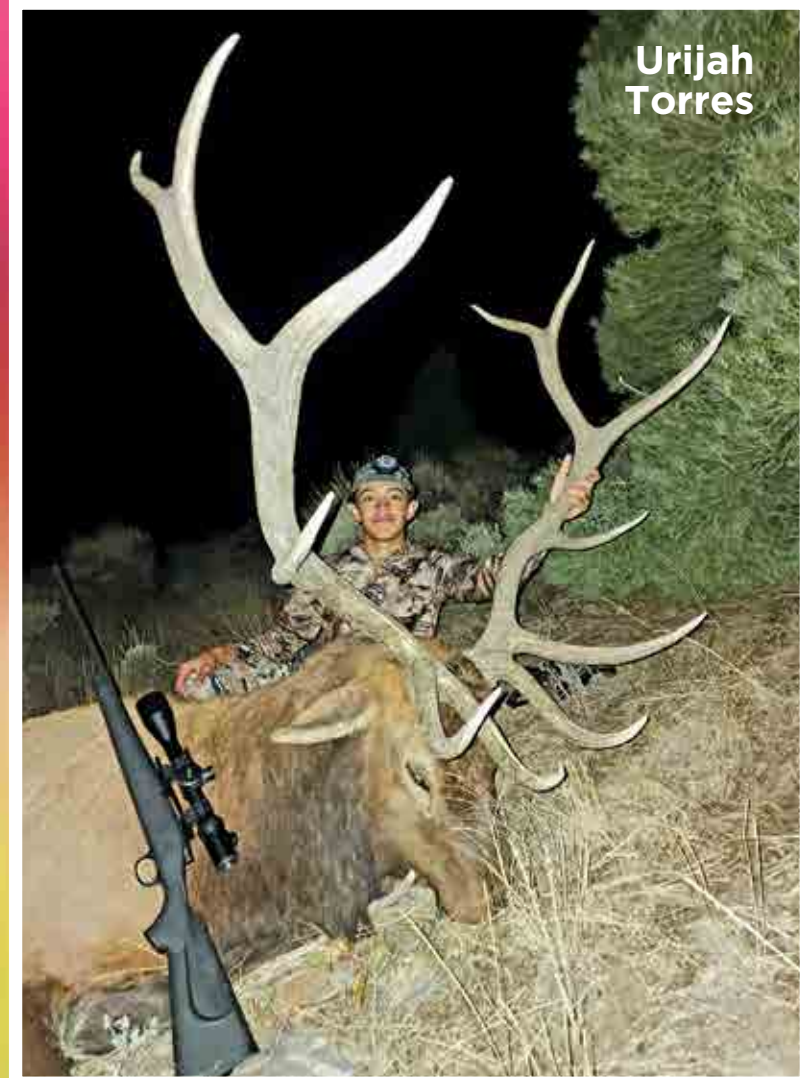
We love seeing what our youth are up to! Please send us your photos to bighornsjournal@gmail.com.



Bronson Hamrey



Yaelle Lesperance



Urijah Torres



Walker Laca



Brogan Lackey



Henry Hicks



Bodin Hamrey



Tristan Lackey

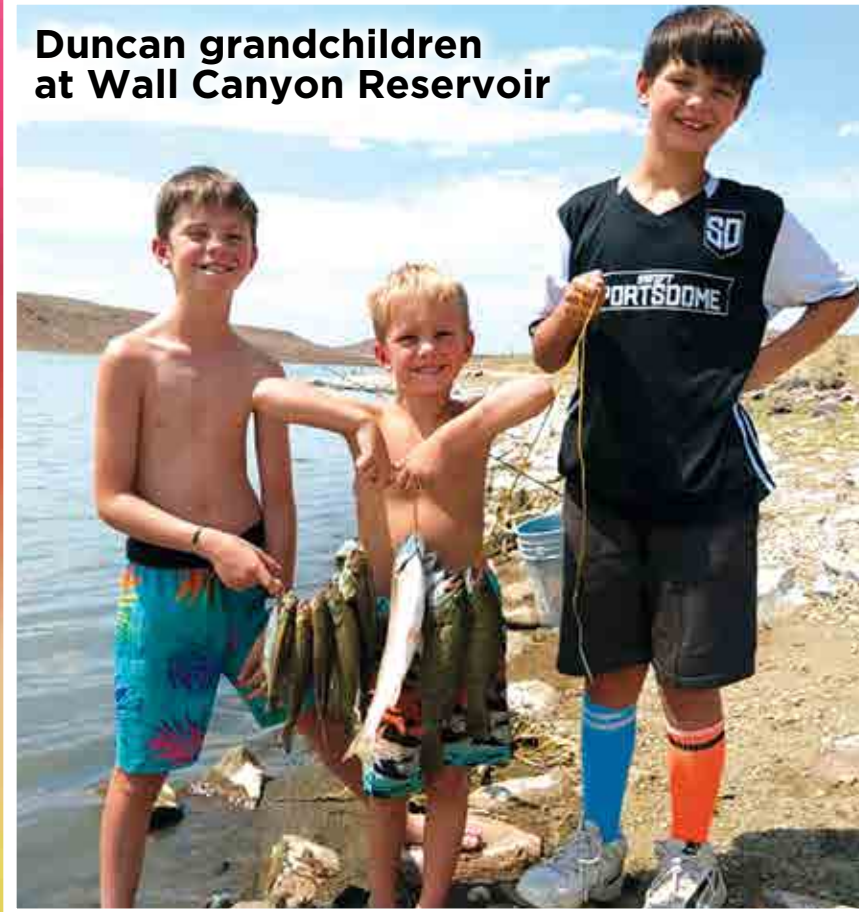
Dane
Cunningham



Brynn
Laca



Duncan grandchildren
at Wall Canyon Reservoir



Mason
Pellett

Jax
Laca



Macy
England



YWCE
YOUTH WILDLIFE CONSERVATION EXPERIENCE



SCAN ME!



10am - 4pm • Saturday, January 18, 2025 • Reno/Sparks Convention Center

FREE FAMILY FUN FOR ALL AGES

Archery, Wildlife Conservation, Climbing Wall, BB Gun Ranges, and so much more!

Word Search

R N V Z N W H L U F M N R Q G H X P Q L Z W G L G
 F N H A R G O V S I O J T L K T B Q V D T D W H W
 D W X H Z J W M N X O C R J X H S H U L M N J J U
 X A Q S Y F G J H C S E A E G Y K V L A T H R O P
 V R Y P T W U X Y H E B I N A G C K L W F P U P L
 V D C K Z G E W E E P U N N Q V H A Q O P C U Z J
 E E G F V D O D E L V R I T C X A Y M E M B E R R
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 W U J A E H Z H I C M O G D E A D H E A D R E A I
 D L N X V Y X Y R O A O X A B M V L Q Z D H J F L
 P F I H H H G D E P R T O V J E K U K L W N K A W
 S L I C H G A R F T A E J E Y V A J H S S F M F U
 W P D N E G S A E E N M S H C U J R S N A V T I F
 C O M R U N Z T O R G O I H U S C C A C I G F S C
 A Y E B H Y S E V T E W D U Q M S B E E H Y A K S
 P F I E J S U E V F J V Y K M G E A S H P E F D K
 U C G D E G Y H J O B O W M S W H U G V N O E L N
 R R A K X D L B N B U Y O X F J W T M E O C R L R
 R B B P A X H L A N E Y W U B S V C Q J B Q E O S
 O P B P T L F Y A C U U T O J A B M L T D R L L C
 H V C Q I U X P F R K N Z W L M X H O Z C L U I M
 X L C K Z F R I N Q N P A A I N N A U C Z P F S W
 J K O H Z J C E K D U X A H F I R E A R M P N Q H
 W X E Y T J O Z U R Q C F C K E P C H C P V Y Z H
 D Y S F O V J B X V R F P K K M J P J I K R I V O

- | | | | |
|------------|-----------|-----------|------|
| Helicopter | Dehydrate | Sagebrush | Bear |
| Backpack | Training | Deadhead | Ewe |
| Capture | Scheels | Lathrop | BBQ |
| Firearm | License | Member | |
| Burro | Capurro | Warden | |
| Moose | Range | | |



BECOME A PART OF THE NEVADA BIGHORNS UNLIMITED LEGACY



Nevada Bighorns Unlimited needs your help to continue the growth of our education and conservation programs for Nevada's wildlife. Consider NBU in your estate planning.

Photo by Victor Clark

We have an increasing number of members of Nevada Bighorns Unlimited who are now benefiting from life income gifts, gift annuities, and other plans. Please show your support of Nevada Bighorns Unlimited and all of its many worthwhile programs by giving today.

Planned gifts benefit both the individual and Nevada Bighorns Unlimited. Through planned giving, individuals can achieve both income tax benefits as well as estate tax savings. Such a gift is usually the result of careful financial and/or estate planning, and is often combined with current gifts as part of an overall giving program.

Individual gifts can be structured in many ways. You can contribute through gifts of stock, real estate, or other personal assets. Our Foundation Directors are here to work with your needs and answer questions regarding contributions.

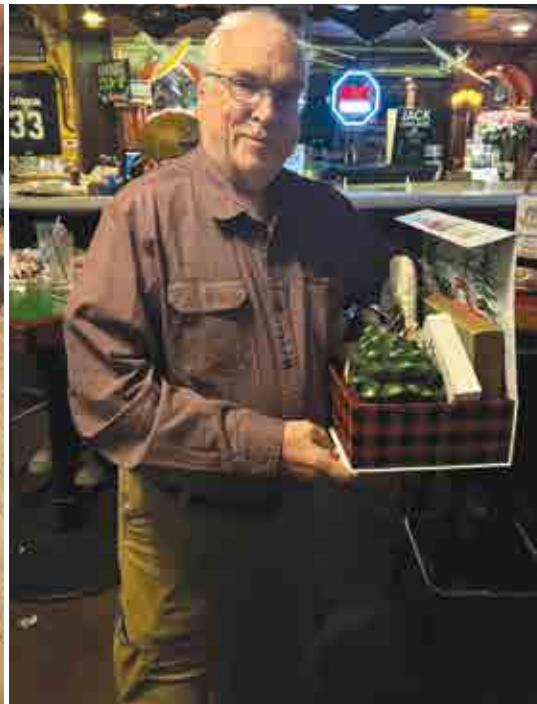
If you would like more information on this conservation opportunity or have questions about how you might be able to donate, please contact us at info@nevadabighornsunlimited.org.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the NB Ewes!

We have had a very busy fall and hunting season. We want to thank you all for your support with your donations and attending our events. We are looking forward to 2025 and bringing you more special events, and some for just ladies. Stay up to date with us by following our Instagram @nbewes.

This November, we excitedly hosted our fall BINGO Bash at The Wal. A big THANK YOU to The Wal and their staff for providing the space and delicious dinner for our guests. Many families came out and we raised over \$1000 for our 2025 Youth Clothing Drive where we plan to provide youth hunters in our community with some awesome gear for their 2025 outdoor season. Did you miss our November BINGO night? We will be hosting another BINGO Bash in the spring! Date to be announced soon!



The Ewes welcomed 3 new members this Fall: Hannah Bohach, LeeAnn Matteoni, and Amanda Mortensen. All three of these amazing women have a passion for wildlife, conservation, volunteering, and raising up the next generation of hunters. We are elated to have them join us! Please say hello and meet them at our next event.

The Ewes are gearing up for a busy winter as well! We will be donating and serving dinner at The Veterans Guest House and volunteering at Wreaths Across America in Fernley. Getting ready for Sheep Show, Spring BINGO, Youth Clothing Drive, and of course, the NBU Banquet. We have big plans for our Ladies Basket Raffle and our new Youth Backpack Raffle. The NB Ewes are looking for your help! Basket donations are a great way to showcase your business or your creative talents. We welcome all basket donations. We are interested in both completed baskets ready to raffle or single items that we can add to our baskets as we build them. If you are interested in donating, please email us!

We will be accepting donations year-round for gently used or new youth or adult hunting gear, camo, and outerwear for our Youth Clothing Drive. When you are cleaning out the gear closets, please think of donating those items to us! Please contact us to schedule a pickup/drop off. We will happily come to you to collect the items, or you can bring them with you to our next event!

As we end 2024 and enter a new year, we can't help but look back at this year and smile knowing we have so much support from all of you. The Ewes have a passion for supporting all Sportsmen, but especially women and children who want to get into hunting. We are thankful for all the meat donations to our Got Meat program that goes to those falling on hard times, hunting gear for kids, and meals for veterans. So many of you reading this have donated your time, talents, hard work, and monetary funds to our philanthropic board. We could never do what we do without your support. From our families to yours - We hope you have a fantastic holiday, and it's filled with food, family, and friends. We look forward to seeing you all next year!



MARCO POLO



LEOPARD



CAPE BUFFALO



MUSKOX



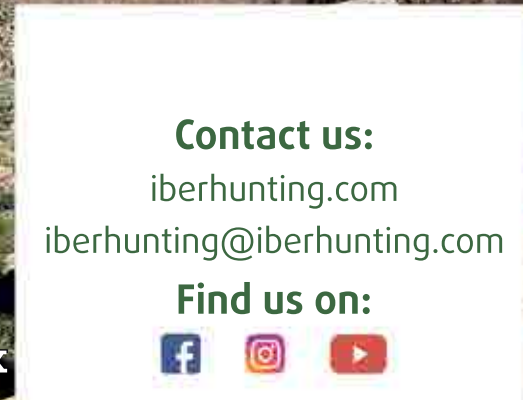
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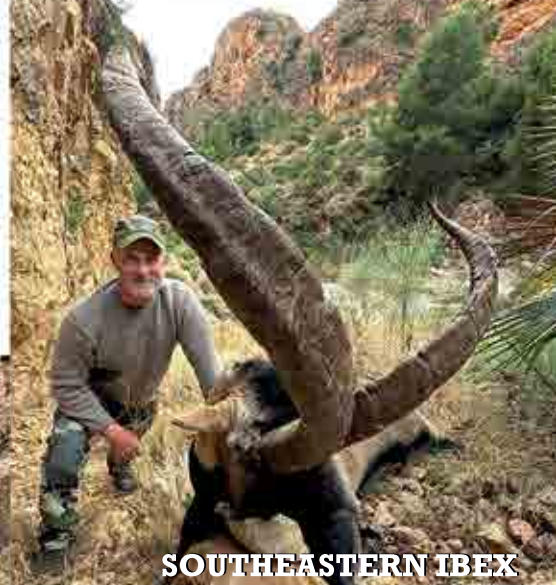
ALTAI IBEX



GOBI ARGALI



PYRENEAN CHAMOIS



SOUTHEASTERN IBEX



BALEAREAN BOC



BECEITE IBEX



GREDOS IBEX

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iberhunting.com
iberhunting@iberhunting.com

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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:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$45 Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Bronze Ram |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Corporate | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,500 Silver Ram |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Outfitter | <input type="checkbox"/> \$2,500 Gold Ram |

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Business Phone: _____

Residence Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

I **only** wish to receive the NBU Journal via my E-Mail

Check or Money Order Enclosed

Credit Card: Visa Mastercard

American Express Exp. Date: _____

Card No.: _____

Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____

Please mail this completed form and remittance to:

Nevada Bighorns Unlimited
P.O. Box 21393, Reno, Nevada 89515-1393

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 ~

Nevada Bighorns Unlimited

P.O. Box 21393

Reno, Nevada 89515-1393

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