
NATIONAL
BIGHORN
SHEEP
CENTER
DUBOIS, WY
Fall 2025

A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD

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Dear Friends of the Center,

As autumn's golden leaves begin to swirl with a few snowflakes, it's the perfect moment to pause, reflect, and celebrate the vibrant journey we've shared this year. Your passion and support are the heartbeat of our mission-thank you, it is how this works...read on!

This **summer** was nothing short of extraordinary. With our small but fearless staff and a herd of dedicated volunteers, we tackled a mountain of projects. We had whirlwind of visitors, tours, Camp Bighorn adventures, and outreach travels - each moment echoing our mission and expanding our community.

We kicked off time spring with the **Center clean-up**—inside and out! Thanks to our rock star volunteers, the Center was refreshed and ready for a season of growth. This effort also marked the launch of our much-anticipated office remodel and hospitality center upgrades, setting the stage for TOTAL remodel this winter

July 3rd we hosted our 32nd **Anniversary Community Picnic!** This celebration featured a ribbon cutting for breathtaking landscape mural by the talented Cindy Moore. For four months, Cindy braved the heights (with a lift generously loaned by Hess Plumbing) and transformed our North wall into a masterpiece view of the Torrey valley!

Our **Summer Intern Program** soared through its third year, and we were thrilled to have Megan join our herd. As a Environment and Natural Resources student at the University of Wyoming, Megan shadowed experts with the National Park Service, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Tribal Fish and Game. Her journey was filled with learning and meaningful connections—the other half of her job was offering energy and insight to our visitors at the Center.

As the season changes, **we are changing.** We bid a fond farewell to Amanda Verheul, whose leadership and enthusiasm have propelled us forward—thank you, Amanda, and best wishes on your next adventure! We also send our gratitude to Anna Mabie, our creative marketing assistant, as she embarks on her artistic journey in Arizona.

Anna Miller, our Interim Director has grabbed the reins with her capable hands and is joined by the ever- inspiring Education Director, Beth Cable. With their vision and dedication, they are leading the Center into this next chapter and we are so grateful.

We are getting ready for **Bighorn Bash** on November 1st - gotta go...work to do!

With heartfelt thanks and wild enthusiasm,

Carolyn Gillette

Board Member

"Like the resource it seeks to protect, wildlife conservation must be dynamic, changing as conditions change, seeking always to become more effective." **— Rachel Carson**

BY THE NUMBERS

Committed to conservation education since 1993

STAFF LIST

Anna Miller
Interim Executive Director

Beth Cable
Education Director

Cindy Moore
Fundraising Assistant

Megan Yarborough
Marketing Coordinator

4,834
2025 Museum Admissions

7
STEM Days Attended

19
Group Tours (250 Students)

18
Off-Site Outreach Events

$38,475
Raised from Commissioner's Tag Donated by Bill Mai

$11,375
Raised from Commissioner's Tag Donated by Fonzy Haskell

$161,748
In the Wyoming Community Foundation Endowment

$126,744
In the Butler Conservation Education Fund

FALLING INTO AUTUMN EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Beth Cable I Education Director I NBSC

Welcome back to school! The National Bighorn Sheep Center is inviting all educators to experience, explore and excite their students through a variety of educational opportunity choices: A visit to and tour of the Center, an Adventure Tour into the Torrey Valley and checking out and borrowing an educational trunk. We look forward to sharing the biology, ecology and conservation of wild sheep, wildlife and wildlands with enthusiastic young minds!

Speaking of traveling education trunks: Thank you to the Wyoming Youth for Natural Resources (WYNR) of the Wyoming Wildlife Foundation for their grant, which allowed us to produce a second education trunk. The trunks can be loaned to educators or brought to events and classes. They include bighorn sheep materials and lesson plans about sheep biology and ecology. We can also provide a virtual tour of the center!

The Deidre Bainbridge Wildlife Fund provided monies for us to purchase 15 pairs of Maven binoculars, a Maven spotting scope, a Nikon camera and a new computer. This generosity encourages and enables students and adults to view wildlife in a safe and non-consumptive way. Thank you to Maven for providing a discount.

Through generous donations from supporters of the National Bighorn Sheep Center and the Butler Fund, the Steve Kilpatrick Memorial Scholarship has been created. See more on page 18.

We are fortunate to have two archeologists visit and share with us this fall. Spencer Pelton, the Wyoming State Archaeologist and an adjunct professor of anthropology at the University of Wyoming, lead a hike at the Torrey Valley petroglyphs and gave a talk at on October 3.

Todd Guenther, Professor Emeritus, Anthropology; History at Central Wyoming College, will present at 7PM on November 12 at the Dennison Lodge.

Lander Middle School students explore the petroglyphs with Beth in early September while attending a camp in the Torrey Valley.

He will share about a 13,000 year old permanent village and bighorn sheep hunting site. RSVP's are encouraged, but not required.

In collaboration with the University of Wyoming's Science Initiative, we will be visiting three elementary schools for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Days: Livingston Elementary in Cody, Urie Elementary in Lyman and Wind River Elementary in Pavillion.

Not only are we looking forward to these events, we continue to enjoy providing quality experiences for visitors at the Center. For more information on the above, please visit our website: www.bighorn.org.

Right: Beth leading a discussion with students from Fort Washakie in late-September.

Inspire | Educate | Conserve

IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP UP TO DATE?

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Individual: $30

Family: $60

Business: $125

Life Membership: $500-$750

Call or visit us online to renew today!

(307) 455-3429

www.bighorn.org

FOR THE LOVE OF WILDLIFE, STAY ON THE ROAD!

Amy Anderson | Habitat Biologist | Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Tire tracks caused by off-road driving. Photo by Amy Anderson.

It is not news to anyone that we had an exceptionally hot, dry summer this year in the Dubois area. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department is busy collecting forage production data across crucial winter ranges on the Whiskey Basin WHMA (Wildlife Habitat Management Area), Inberg-Roy WHMA, and Spence-Moriarity Wildlife Management Area.

As expected, given the lack of moisture this summer, forage production was very low. In fact, Table Mountain north of Dubois on average produces more than 350 lbs. of grass per acre each year, but it only produced 130 lbs./acre in 2025; this is a 63% decline in available winter food for wildlife. And for a site that supports as many as a thousand elk off and on through the winter, every bit of food matters.

Add to the dry summer and less forage production the impact of ever increasing off-road vehicle travel. It is important that grasses used by wintering wildlife are available to them – that is, they are not lying flat on the ground. The grasses on these arid sites, once they cure out in late summer, become dry and brittle, and when driven over by even a single vehicle are broken down to the ground. Perhaps people assume they pop right back up, instead, they break off and are left lying flat on the ground. This effectively removes those grasses as available forage for wildlife.

There is no question a considerable increase in off-roading with ATV/UTVs is removing significant amounts of winter forage on the habitat areas around Dubois.

Stock image


Stock image

As an example, if an ATV/UTV drives off road the length of Torrey Rim, or approximately 1 mile, with 10" wide tires, nearly ¼ acre of forage is broken down and made unavailable to wildlife. This is exacerbated further when another person sees those tracks and thinks, "well someone drove there, so I can too!"

Torrey Rim typically produces about 420 lbs. of forage/acre annually. So, the removal of that ¼ acre of forage that got mashed to the ground equals 105 pounds of forage lost to bighorn sheep. Assume a bighorn sheep eats 5 pounds of food per day, that is 21 days of feed lost for one sheep.

Now imagine areas where off-road tire tracks crisscross the winter range grasslands in multiple directions like that observed on Table Mountain. The forage loss is even more significant.

The moral of this story is that off-road vehicle use destroys important wildlife habitats and just because your ATV/UTV makes it possible to cross these open winter ranges, there is a cost to doing so, and it is at the expense of our wildlife – not to mention it is illegal! It is simply unacceptable to disrespect these valuable places and the habitat they provide by driving off-road.

Particularly in a year when it is so dry, forage production very low and there will be so many mouths to feed through the winter, that cost is so much higher.

Remember these areas provide crucial winter habitat for our wildlife, so please avoid vehicle off-road use and encourage others to do the same. Your wildlife depends on it!


Tire tracks caused by off-road driving. Photo by Amy Anderson.

REMEMBER

⇒ Stay on designated roads and trails

⇒ Respect Wildlife

⇒ Leave No Trace


Photo by: Anna Miller

THE HIDDEN COST OF PATHOGENS

Jack Gavin I Monteith Shop

For bighorn sheep and many other wildlife species, fat is critical for reproduction and survival. The ability to store fat allows sheep to stock up on the high-quality food they find on their summer range and bring it back with them to their winter range. When the winter gets tough and there isn't much to eat, sheep rely on their fat to give them the energy to survive and continue to grow their fetus.

Many populations of bighorn sheep are also dealing with pneumonia, a respiratory disease that can cause massive die-offs. After the die-offs, survival usually goes back to normal, but lamb mortality can persist for years or even decades following the die-off. This means that adults can be infected with pneumonia-causing pathogens but don't necessarily get sick. However, fighting off these pathogens requires an immune response, which costs energy.

Given how crucial fat and energy are for bighorn sheep, Dr. Rachel Smiley investigated the relationships between fat and pneumonia as a part of the Bighorn Sheep Nutrition and Disease Project, which occurred in the Whiskey Mountain herd from 2019 to 2024.

Her work uncovered the hidden cost of pathogens that may hinder population recovery following a pneumonia die-off. Animals that were infected with Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae (M. ovi), the main pathogen that causes pneumonia, gained less fat over summer than uninfected sheep. And for each additional pathogen they carried on top of M. ovi, they gained even less fat.

To put this into perspective, it's helpful to think about raising young. Caring for a lamb is one of the most energetically demanding things a mother will do in her life, and we found that a bighorn sheep infected with three pathogens suffers the same hit to over summer fat gain as a mother raising a lamb! A mother trying to raise her lamb and fight off infection at the same time may invest less energy into her lamb in order to secure her own survival and a chance to reproduce the following year.

These findings contribute to a growing body of evidence that pathogens can have insidious effects on both lambs and adults even when mortality from disease is low. Understanding the links between fat and disease can provide different tools for the management of sheep herds. If sheep have access to high-quality food that helps them build fat, they can better sustain their survival and reproduction, while also more effectively warding off disease.

Improving nutrition or reducing pathogen prevalence in populations can both strengthen the resilience of a population to pneumonia.

U.S. 26 WILDLIFE CROSSING: CONNECTING WILDLIFE ON THE TOGWOTEE TRAIL FROM WIND RIVER TO THE GRAND TETONS

Chris McBarnes I The WYldlife Fund

The WYldlife Fund set its sights on an ambitious goal in 2024: raising 2.7 million for the U.S. 26 Wildlife Crossing Project: Connecting Wildlife on the Togwotee Trail from Wind River to the Grand Tetons.

Wildlife overpass concept. Photo by The WYldlife Fund

To achieve this bold objective, The WYldlife Fund partnered with the Greater Yellowstone Coalition. These private funds will be combined with state funding to strengthen Wyoming's position in competing for federal grant opportunities, ensuring the project is fully funded and can move forward to construction.

This transformative project involves the construction of three wildlife underpasses, one overpass, and big game exclusionary fencing. The targeted stretch of US 26 (mileposts 58-67) runs through a crucial wildlife migration corridor for mule deer, which summer in Grand Teton National Park and winter on the Wind River Reservation. Additionally, moose, elk, and bighorn sheep frequently cross this stretch, putting them at risk of dangerous collisions.

Photo by The WYldlife Fund

Wildlife-Vehicle Collisions in Wyoming

- ⇒ An average of 21 big-game vehicle collisions occur per day in Wyoming, with **eight per day involving serious damages to vehicles and/or human injuries.**
- ⇒ Total wildlife-vehicle collisions averages 7,656 per year from 2016-2020
- ⇒ 85% of ALL wildlife collisions are with mule deer. At this rate, we are losing 1.5% of Wyoming's mule deer population per year in wildlife-vehicle collisions.

Visit www.thewyldlifefund.org for more information.

PROVIDING CONSERVATION EDUCATION FOR PENSYVANNIA'S ELK

By Jeff Gauger I President and CEO I Keystone Elk Country Alliance, Benezette, PA

Pennsylvania's Elk Country is a place of natural beauty and memorable experiences. The stunning beauty of the mountains, the fall bugle of a mature bull elk, the splendor and serenity of the forests, the springtime cadence of songbirds, the summertime wildflowers, the clean air, clean water and abundant wildlife, the sound of a babbling mountain stream, the smell of the forest after a summer rain, the breathtaking views of the night sky, and the crispness of a clear winter morning. I could go on and on, but my point is Elk Country is an awesome place to visit anytime of the year. Pennsylvania Elk Country and the Elk Country Visitor Center continue to be a fantastic place to visit.

Whether it's viewing elk during the rut, experiencing the solitude and beauty of winter, searching for antler sheds in the spring, or catching a glimpse of a calf or attending one of the many area events during the summer, Elk Country can't be beat.

Photo provided by KECA

As a Pennsylvania based non-profit wildlife conservation organization that operates the Elk Country Visitor Center in Benezette, PA, the Keystone Elk Country Alliance (KECA) is dedicated to Pennsylvania's Elk Country and Pennsylvania's Elk herd. Pennsylvania's elk now number over 1,400 animals and live across a ten-county area of North-Central Pennsylvania.

Photo provided by KECA

The Keystone Elk Country Alliance's Mission is "To Conserve and Enhance Pennsylvania's Elk Country for Future Generations." Our over 2,200 members, 740 life members and 300 volunteers are proud to be advocates for this special place and this special animal. Our mission priorities are Conservation Education, Habitat Enhancement, and Permanent Land Protection.

The Elk Country Visitor Center has become the premier tourist destination in the Pennsylvania Wilds, averaging over 300,000 visitors each year. In fact, we've had over 5.5M visitors pass through our doors from all 50 states and 47 countries. Elk watching and nature tourism generates over $250M in economic activity, and has created jobs, businesses and infrastructure throughout the region.

Conservation Education is KECA's number one mission priority. When we opened in 2010, we had one small classroom in the Visitor Center to conduct conservation education programs. Since that time, we've added two 40 x 80 outdoor classrooms to accommodate the demand for our conservation education programs. We now teach an average of nearly 40,000 students of all ages with our various Con-ed programs each year. We've reached students in all 67 of Pennsylvania's counties, eighteen additional states and Canada. Our programs have been delivered to over 720,000 students and have helped to create a whole lot of great stewards of the land and wildlife.

Habitat Enhancement is KECA's second mission priority. Our habitat crew enhances an average of over 500 acres of Elk Habitat across four counties in the elk range each year. Over the years we've enhanced over 6,300 acres of habitat on both public and private lands in Pennsylvania's Elk Country.

We hope to see you in Pennsylvania's Elk Country!

For more information visit:

ExperienceElkCountry.com

NBSC'S VISIT TO PENNSYLVANIA'S ELK COUNTRY

The National Bighorn Sheep Center staff had the pleasure to travel to Benezette, PA to attend Elk Expo in 2024 and 2025. This expo is huge, there are over 10,000 visitors during the two-day expo.

We met the leadership of Cameron County Outdoor Youth Activities, a youth organization that sends a kid to our Camp Bighorn each year!

With hundreds of people visiting our booth to learn about Wyoming's bighorn, we heard wonderful stories about bighorn sheep sightings throughout the West. Hearing these stories reminded us why we are stewards of these incredible animals. Keeping sheep on the mountain is vital for future generations.

We look forward to attending the next Elk Expo! Thank you for having us!

Anna Miller poses with Benny at the 2025 Elk Expo

Talking sheep with young visitors at the 2024 Elk Expo

MUSEUM UPDATES IN FULL SWING

By Anna Miller I Interim Executive Director I NBSC

Beginning in February 2025, we began the process of upgrading our museum exhibits. Those who have visited before are familiar with our beautiful sheep mountain and incredible taxidermy mounts. These exhibits are original to the Center when we opened in 1993.

After deciding to move forward with this project, we reached out to Warehouse 21, a company based out of Cheyenne, Wyoming, who has completed numerous museum projects. They came to visit us in early 2025 to learn more about our space and the visions we have for the museum. Following that visit, we received a highly detailed plan from Warehouse 21.

They noted that the museum lacked a comprehensive flow, which can be confusing to visitors. Their presentation aimed to fix the flow by creating three different sections in the museum to give guests a more immersive and detailed experience into the ecology of bighorn sheep. There is a section for biology, ecology, and conservation, and it will be clear to visitors which section they are in.

The main sheep mountain will remain the same, we will be keeping all of our taxidermy mounts.

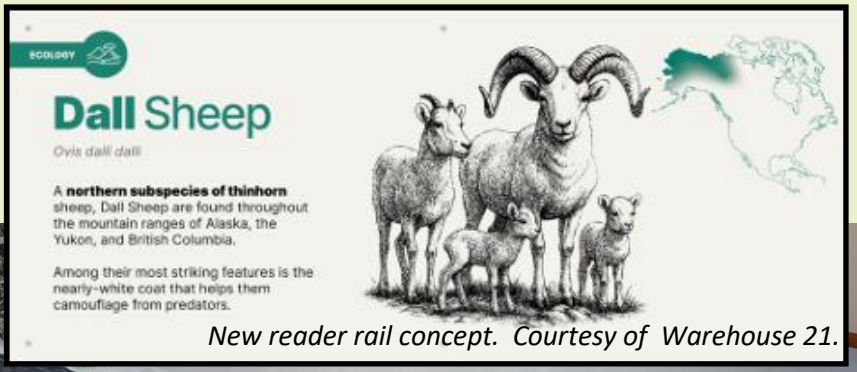
All of the reader rails throughout the Center will be updated with a new color scheme, high quality graphics, and new information. Brand new exhibits will take the place of two older exhibits.

One of the most important parts of this project behind the scenes is digitalizing all of the museum content. With help from our summer intern, Megan, we got 98% of the current and new content sent to Warehouse 21 over the summer.

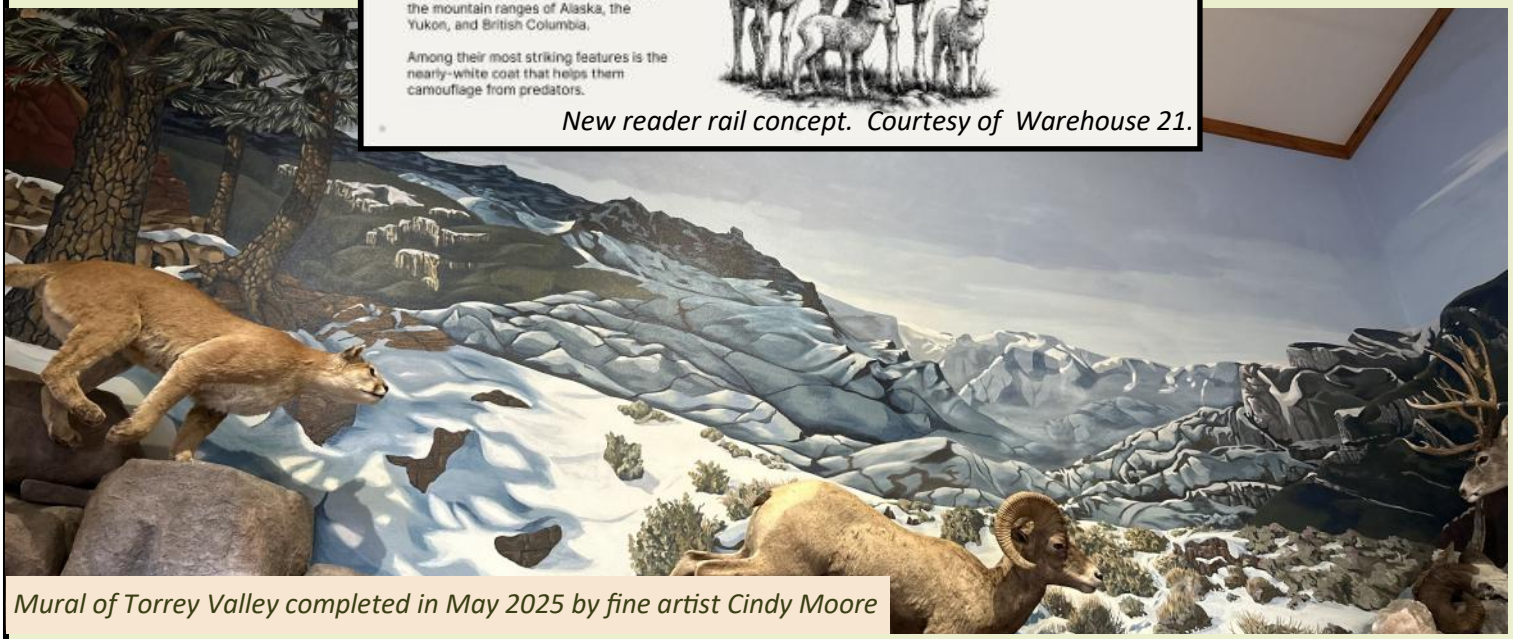
The Lander and Jackson Regions of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and Montieth Shop also contributed information and photos to this project.

Completion is set to happen in early 2026, with instillation being the final piece to the project. As the Museum Coordinator, it has been incredible watching this project come together over the entirety of 2025. Those that have elected to leave their Beck Learning Center contributions with us, know that your funds directly supported this project.

We will have a Grand Reopening once the project is complete, and I hope all will join us in celebrating this wonderful improvement!



New reader rail concept. Courtesy of Warehouse 21.



Mural of Torrey Valley completed in May 2025 by fine artist Cindy Moore

CAMP BIGHORN 2025

By Kray Lutz I 2025 Camp Coordinator I NBSC

Campers canoeing on Torrey Creek and Trail Lake.

Bryan Sage helps a camper get the perfect shot in archery

Kim Lutz leads The Art of Taxidermy activity with the campers.

Camp Bighorn 2025, hosted by the National Bighorn Sheep Center, gave campers an unforgettable week of discovery, adventure, and connection. What made this year so special was not just the activities themselves, but the chance for young people to learn directly from world-renowned experts in wildlife conservation, ecology, cultural history, and the arts.

From the very beginning, campers were immersed in hands-on experiences that challenged them to think critically and creatively about the natural world. They worked alongside leading scientists, biologists, and educators who brought lessons on edible and medicinal plants, water ecology, and large carnivore conservation to life. Renowned photographers and storytellers showed them how images and narratives can shape conservation efforts, while cultural historians connected campers to the deep history of the land and its people. Even activities like archery, fishing, and kayaking became opportunities to blend fun with learning, guided by professionals who shared both technical skills and personal passion.

Although the week was not without its challenges—several bouts of unpredictable mountain weather forced quick changes to the schedule—the adaptability and enthusiasm of the staff turned obstacles into highlights. Their ability to reshape activities on the fly not only kept campers engaged but actually enriched the experience, proving that flexibility is at the heart of outdoor learning.

By the end of the week, campers left with more than just new skills. They walked away with a deeper appreciation for Wyoming's wildlife, landscapes, and cultural heritage, as well as inspiration from experts who have dedicated their lives to studying and protecting these treasures. Camp Bighorn 2025 reminded everyone involved that the most powerful lessons happen when young people are given the chance to explore, question, and create alongside mentors who truly embody the spirit of conservation.

NORTHERN ARAPAHO TRIBE OFFICIALLY CLASSIFIES BUFFALO AS WILDLIFE ON WIND RIVER INDIAN RESERVATION

Taylar Stagner I Community Engagement Director I Wind River Tribal Buffalo Initiative

The Northern Arapaho Tribe has taken a historic step in wildlife conservation by officially classifying buffalo (Bison bison) as wildlife on the Wind River Indian Reservation. This decision affirms the Arapaho Tribe's deep cultural connection to buffalo and strengthens ongoing efforts to restore and protect buffalo across the Wind River Reservation's landscapes.

The new Resolution will ensure buffalo receive the same protections as other Native wildlife under Tribal law, safeguarding their future and the ecosystem they help sustain. Buffalo are a keystone species, whose presence benefits landscapes and revitalizes natural habitats, promotes biodiversity, and honors centuries of cultural connections.

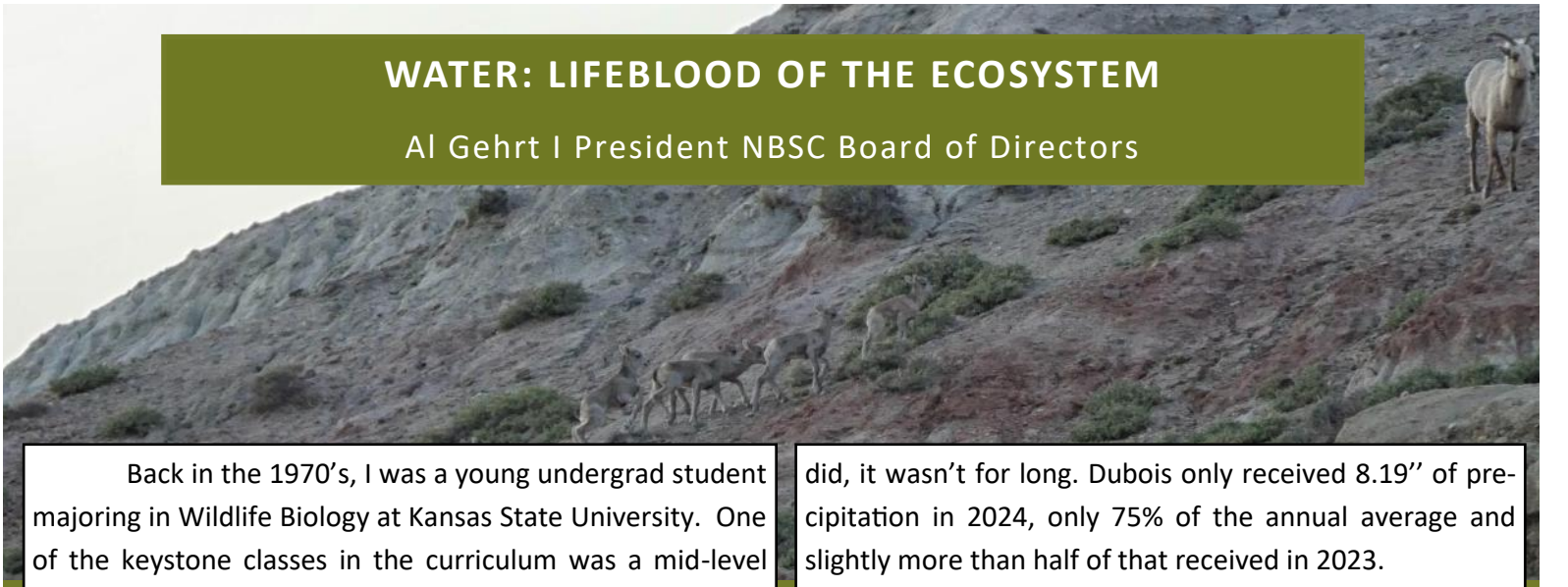
This move aligns with broader conservation and restoration goals led by the National Wildlife Federation's Tribal Partnerships Program and the Inter-Tribal Buffalo Council (ITBC), and follows the recent wild buffalo classifications of the Eastern Shoshone Tribe and the State of Colorado. Altogether, there are 86 ITBC-member Tribes leading the way in buffalo restoration and dozens more that have signed the International Buffalo Treaty. On the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming, hundreds of buffalo have been restored to the land, managed as wildlife, reestablishing an essential part of the region's ecological and cultural presence.

The decision to classify buffalo as wildlife marks a significant milestone in the Northern Arapaho Tribe's commitment to traditional land stewardship, cultural revitalization, and ecological restoration. It also sets a precedent for Indigenous-led wildlife policy and conservation efforts nationwide.

The Wind River Tribal Buffalo Initiative is an Indigenous nonprofit organization that supports both the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Tribes to restore and protect buffalo on the Wind River Indian Reservation. WRTBI focuses on land rematriation, ecological restoration, cultural revitalization, food sovereignty, and youth education.

"The Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Tribes come from Buffalo people. They remain in our songs and ceremonies, and despite the attempt to eradicate buffalo and our connection to them, there remains a great reverence and respect for buffalo for what it provides to not only people, but also the land, plants and animals."
- Jason Baldes, Executive Director Wind River Tribal Buffalo Initiative

Photos courteous of the WRTBI



WATER: LIFEBLOOD OF THE ECOSYSTEM

Al Gehrt I President NBSC Board of Directors

Back in the 1970's, I was a young undergrad student majoring in Wildlife Biology at Kansas State University. One of the keystone classes in the curriculum was a mid-level course entitled simply, "Ecology." It was taught by Dr. Lloyd Hulbert who was instrumental in establishing the Konza Research Prairie for Kansas State University in conjunction with The Nature Conservancy. The class delved into many of the ecological principles laid out by Aldo Leupold in his book, "A Sand County Alamac."

Chief among those principles was the linkage of soils and climate to the resulting biome. Soils coupled with climate – including precipitation, are two key factors in determining the resultant plant community. And that plant community - coupled with the climate - are key influencers on the fauna which will inhabit an area.

2023 was notable for its unusually high total annual precipitation as well as especially notable amounts during certain months. According to the National Weather Service, Dubois had its wettest January, third wettest June, seventh wettest August, tenth wettest October, and third wettest November on record! And if I recall correctly, the vegetation suitable for forage on the Winds south of Painted Hills stayed green well into August of that year.

Total precipitation, some 16", for 2023 was 147% of normal. The amount of precipitation received was reflected in both the quality and the availability of suitable forage. The Painted Hills resident herd of Rocky Mountain Bighorns arrived in September as usual and departed in May when they migrate up into the hills for lambing.

Now, step into 2024, and we see quite the contrast between the two years. I'm not sure that the Winds immediately to the south ever greened up that spring, and if they did, it wasn't for long. Dubois only received 8.19'' of precipitation in 2024, only 75% of the annual average and slightly more than half of that received in 2023.

Our resident Bighorns made their first debut in the neighborhood in July, 2024, a full two month ahead of schedule. Their early arrival was attributable to a lack of available forage up in the hills, as well as the lack of available free water.

2025 is proving to be a continuation of what was observed in 2024. As of the end of September, the area has received only 7.03" of precipitation, which is only 0.26" above the same period in 2024. Again, the same behavioral modifications were observed in sheep behavior in response to the lack of both quality forage and available free water up in the hills we that was witnessed in 2024, with the sheep arriving in July.

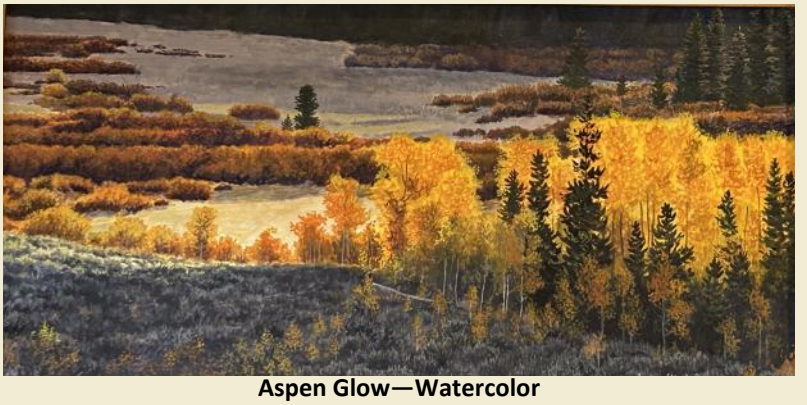
Largely in response to the prevailing drought conditions and lack of availability of food sources, both grizzly and black bears have descended into the Wind River valley, including the Town of Dubois, in search of food. Three of the grizzly bears have been captured and translocated to an area immediately south of Yellowstone National Park.

Since the sheep arrived in July, as many as 26 individuals have been observed, including a couple small rams, four lambs, and the remainder being ewes. Unfortunately, one of the lambs began exhibiting symptoms of Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae (M. ovi.) – coughing, wheezing and a runny nose - and has not been observed within the last several weeks. One of the rams (aka Cassanova) has already been exhibiting rutting behavior.

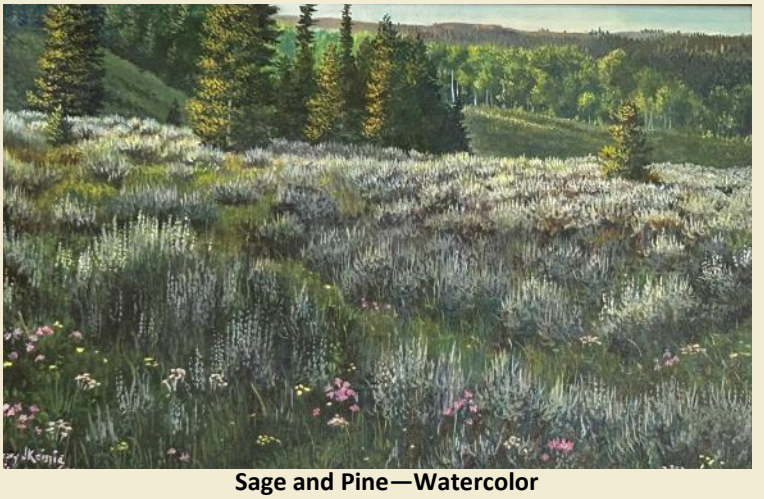
Gary Keimeg

Seasonal Art Exhibit I Wildlife and Wildlands

Aspen and Lupine—Watercolor



Aspen Glow—Watercolor

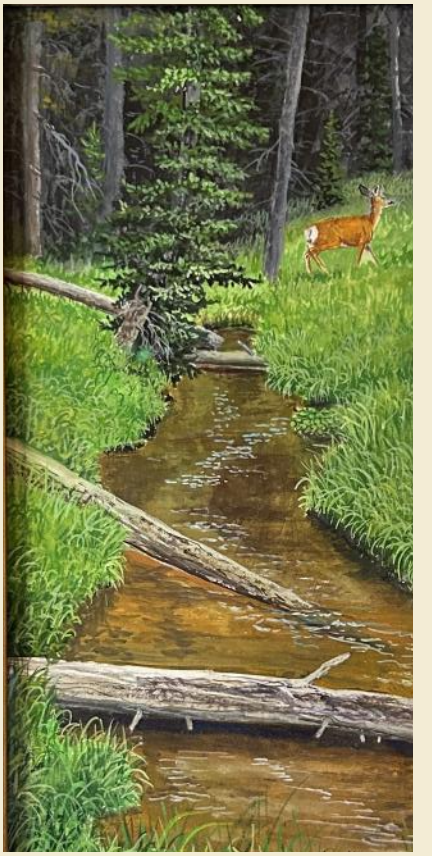


Sage and Pine—Watercolor

Gary is a Wyoming native born into a pioneer ranching family. As a youngster he spent a great deal of time riding and hiking the outdoor wilds of central Wyoming. All the while observing Wyoming's wonderful wildlife and the varied forms of environments and landscapes.

Gary's art reflects his interest and love of the Rocky Mountain west. Its landscapes and its wildlife. He is particularly interested in wild places. In light, texture and detail and how these ingredients affect objects in their environment.

He strives to create a pleasing realistic design that can be incorporated into a painting. He is touched by the simple spirit of nature and considers his work successful when the viewer is equally touched and in turn catches a glimpse of that enduring spirit of wilderness and meaning within themselves.



Summer Waters—Watercolor

Steve Kilpatrick Memorial Scholarship

Through generous donations from supporters of the National Bighorn Sheep Center and the Butler Fund, we offer one $1,000 scholarship for undergraduate students attending a college in Wyoming and studying environmental and natural resources fields.

Steve was a firm believer in educating the next generation to conserve our wildlife and wildlands. He dedicated his life and legacy to wild sheep and conservation education. We are proud to carry on his legacy through this scholarship.

Above: Steve and his loyal dog, Cinder in Dubois, WY

"If we don't have kids on the mountain and know what it takes to maintain habitat, no one is going to do it. If we don't pass this value and knowledge on, there won't be [wild] sheep on the mountain in the future." Steve Kilpatrick

Guidelines

- **Open to students planning to study Environmental/Natural Resources, Biology, or a Conservation related field**
- **Any year eligible: freshman-senior**
- **All are welcome to apply, regardless of financial need**
- **Emphasis on conservation and conservation education.**

To Apply

- **Email the following information:**
  1. Description of your career and/or research/project interests
  2. Intended major/program
  3. Culminative GPA
  4. Resume and unofficial transcripts

Application Deadline: November 30

Beth Cable, Education Director
education@bighorn.org

Leaving a Legacy of Conservation

When you leave the National Bighorn Sheep Center in your estate, you are leaving a legacy of conservation. Our Legacy Society will carry your commitment to conservation far into the future.

We thank our Legacy Society Members for their incredible support.

To learn more about our Legacy Society, please visit our website or contact Anna Miller at anna@bighorn.org

Legacy Society Members

- Meredith and Tory Taylor
- Mary Turney and Rick Liquie
- Brent Pasquinelli
- William Alcorn
- Dennis B. Appleton

Kids Corner!

SIGNS OF FALL

See if you can see, hear, smell or touch the items listed below.

o Rose hips

o A yellow leaf

o A burrow

o Signs of caching, or collecting food for future use

o A red leaf

What does fall smell like?

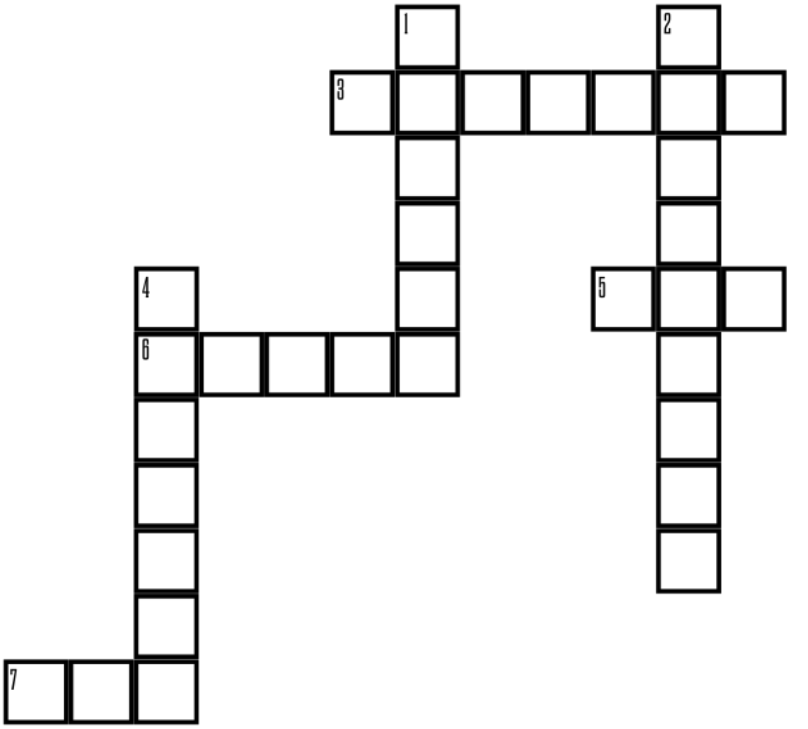
What colors do you see?

Across

3. Type of cultivated winter squash
5. Dried plant used as animal food
6. Nut from an oak tree
7. Bighorn sheep mating season

Down

1. Another word for fall
2. Movement of animals
4. Gathering of ripened crops



THANK YOU, PARTNERS!

Butler Conservation Education Fund Update

Conservation is a collective effort and your gift to the Conservation Education Fund helps cultivate the future generation of: biologists, researchers, educators, and conservationists. Help up grow this fund to provide more outreach and education for individuals of all ages!

Your gift helps fund conservation efforts through...

* Nature Tours
* Camp Bighorn, Youth Programs, and Group Visits
* Education Trunks, Lectures, and Wild Sheep Webinars

Gifts of any amount make a difference!

Thank you to the Butler Family for their unwavering support of conservation education by continuing to support this fund and the incredible opportunities it will offer!

OUTREACH CALENDAR FALL/WINTER 2025-2026

October 16	STEM Day, Cody
October 22	STEM Day, Lyman
October 25	Annual Halloween Party with the Dubois Museum
November 1	32nd Annual Bighorn Bash Fundraiser
November 19	STEM Day, Pavillion
December 13	Holiday Open House with the Dubois Museum
January 22-24, 2026	Wild Sheep Foundation Annual Sheep Show, Reno, NV
February 27-28, 2026	Eastern Chapter WSF Expo and Banquet, Lancaster, PA
March 20-21, 20216	Midwest Chapter WSF Expo and Banquet, Minneapolis, MN

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This newsletter is made possible by John Wendorff.

John owns and operates The Personal Marketing Company (TPMC), a printing business which he and his wife, Elisabeth, built. John has the ability and philanthropic spirit to complete the ***entire*** mailing for the Center at no cost.

Become a Life Member today!

New Life Members

Jim Heizer (#48)

Sue Oberlie (#49)

Robert L. Johnson (#50)

Jim Butkovich (#51)

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NATIONAL BIGHORN SHEEP CENTER

DUBOIS, WY

Mission:

The National Bighorn Sheep Center provides education and outreach for the national conservation of wild sheep, wildlife, and wildlands.

Thank you, renowned wildlife photographer, Bill Sincavage for providing the bighorn photos used in this edition.

All photos are by Bill unless otherwise stated.