

# Field Reports

News from our donors, auction winners, exhibitors, outfitters and raffle winners

## Jeremy's Bighorn Sheep

by Andre Van Hilton

In 2019 I took in my first ECWSF convention as an exhibitor and donor and was pleasantly surprised. The welcome I got from the members I met was amazing and I felt like I had been a part of this group for a lot longer than one weekend!

I don't go to a lot of trade shows and the ones I have done in the past were large, so I thought coming to a smaller venue would give me a chance to build more solid relationships with like-minded people that love sheep and sheep hunting and that share the priority of getting together to raise funds to put and keep sheep on the mountain.

I had an opening become available for one of my Alberta bighorn sheep hunts, so I talked with Tina and got the hunt into the 2019 auction. The hunt was bought by an online bidder, Jeremy Tripp, from Idaho. Isn't technology great! Having these fundraisers online maximizes the amount of conservation dollars raised because bidders can be anywhere in the world and participate in these events.

Jeremy arrived in Alberta the following September. In his mid-forties and with a Dall and Stone sheep

already under his belt, I could see that he was mentally and physically



prepared for whatever this Bighorn hunt would throw at him.

After a couple days that included many hours in the saddle riding trail into sheep camp, Jeremy and his guide, Quinn Chattaway, traded in their saddles for their backpacks.

With enough food to keep them on the range of mountains for nine days they ascended into the alpine where they would hunt the high basins,

moving their dome tent camp when needed.

On the third day of hunting they found a band of rams that needed a closer look. Closing the distance, Quinn determined that two of the rams were of legal size. Jeremy decided the older, broomed ram was the one to take and in short order his dream of harvesting a Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep became a reality. Three months later Jeremy would complete his FNAWS with a desert sheep from Mexico. What an accomplishment!

I would like to thank Jeremy for his contribution to sheep conservation and I would also like to thank ECWSF for supporting me by having this hunt in the 2019 auction and for having one of our Bighorn hunts in the Great North American Sheep Raffle. The lucky winner was in attendance at the 2020 convention and was booked to come hunt with us this fall.

Unfortunately, due to the border restrictions, we could not operate any international client hunts. Let's hope that life gets back to normal soon so we can travel like we use to, attend fund raisers in person and hunt internationally again!



This space is provided for hunt stories from successful donors, outfitters, auction winners, raffle winners and exhibitors.

For personal hunt stories from members, see the Braggin' Board