

**Central
Wyoming
Chapter**



CENTRAL WYOMING CHAPTER
SAFARI CLUB INTERNATIONAL
January 2009

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 6, Number 1

Next Meeting : When : Thursday, January 8, 2009 at 6:30 PM
Where : Casper Petroleum Club

Presentation : Chapter Members Rick Bonander and Jerry Davis will give a presentation on their August 2008 lion hunt(s) in Zambia.

Agenda :

- 1) Welcome members and visitors.
- 2) President's remarks.
- 3) Chapter business.
- 4) Presentation.

FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

Thursday, February 5, 2009. Chapter members Sam Scaling and Joe Vigneri are tentatively scheduled to give a PowerPoint presentation on their November 2008 Rocky Mountain goat hunt in southeast Alaska with Glacier Guides, Inc.

Thursday, March 12, 2009. Chapter member Geoffrey Smith is tentatively scheduled to give a presentation on his recent bongo hunt in Cameroon. Please note that the meeting has been set back one week to accommodate Geoff's busy schedule.

Please note that the January meeting has been moved to the second Thursday in January as the first Thursday falls on New Year's day!




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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As many of you know, I sent out an email on December 10, 2008 regarding the continuing wolf controversy here in Wyoming and asking for your opinions concerning the issue. While the response was not overwhelming, those members who did take the time to respond were all of the opinion that the State of Wyoming needs to revise our current legislation and Wolf Management Plan to eliminate the dual classification of wolves and designate them as trophy game animals statewide. As I stated in my previous email, I felt that the Wyoming Wolf Management Plan as originally proposed and accepted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) was more than adequate; however, the courts did not and delisting of gray wolves in Wyoming has been (and continues to

be) delayed as a direct result of our current wolf management plan and Wyoming's apparent inability to come up with a management plan that is deemed to be satisfactory to the USFWS and the court.

The Casper Star Tribune carried an article on Friday, December 26, 2008 stating that the USFWS has now delayed delisting of wolves in the northern Rocky Mountains until sometime in 2009 and that delisting in Wyoming is contingent upon revision of our current legislation and Wolf Management Plan. Two groups in Wyoming have actively opposed removal of the dual classification of wolves and one of these groups has indicated that they will seek a legal remedy to maintain the dual classification of wolves in the State of Wyoming. While I understand the reluctance of some in the livestock industry to accept wolves as a trophy game animal, we are in a situation where the longer it takes to delist wolves and turn the management thereof over to the state, the more our big game populations in the northwestern corner of the state will suffer. In this regard, Wyoming has seen a dramatic decline in elk recruitment in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE) since wolves were re-introduced into Yellowstone National Park (YNP) in 1995. In the Cody elk herd, calf/cow ratios have dropped from an average of 35 calves per 100 cows between 1985 and 1994 to 15 calves per 100 cows in 2005 (a 57% decline). Other elk populations within the "wolf recovery area" have demonstrated similar declines in recruitment as follows:

- Clarks Fork Elk Herd: average of 38 calves per 100 cows (1985-1994) pre-wolf to 20 calves /100 cows in 2005 (a 47% decline);
- Gooseberry Elk Herd: average of 37 calves/100 cows (1985-1994) pre-wolf to 14 calves/100 cows in 2005 (a 62% decline);
- Green River Elk Herd: average of 36 calves/100 cows (1985-1994) pre-wolf to 24 calves/100 cows in 2005 (a 33% decline);
- Jackson Elk Herd: average of 34 calves/100 cows (1985-1994) pre-wolf to 22 calves/100 cows in 2005 (a 35% decline) ; and
- Wiggins Fork Elk Herd: average of 44 calves/100 cows pre-wolf to 29 calves/100 cows in 2005 (a 34% decline).

Calf/cow ratios that run around 25 calves/100 cows can sustain a limited sport harvest on an annual basis; however, once calf/cow ratios reach levels of 16 calves/100 cows or less, little if any sport harvest can be maintained in that herd.

Clearly the expanding wolf population is slowly but surely eliminating (both literally and figuratively) our elk hunting opportunities in NW Wyoming. Montana hunters have already seen their elk hunting opportunities in the Gardiner area north of YNP slip away. Elk populations in the northern Yellowstone herd have declined by approximately 65% between 1994 and 2006 and recruitment in the Gallatin

Canyon herd has dropped to eight calves per 100 cows. This precipitous drop in the northern Yellowstone herd has resulted in a concomitant drop in hunting permits issued in the Gardiner area, with elk tags now limited to 160 permits issued by the State of Montana for the late season Gardiner elk hunt in 2006. This same thing is happening in NW Wyoming with reductions in limited quota elk permits in the late season hunts along the Absaroka Front west of Cody and in Sunlight Basin. With elk recruitment rates dropping significantly in the GYE and the overall elk population aging, it is only a matter of time before the population reaches a point where hunting is severely curtailed in an effort to maintain viable elk populations - unless we control the wolves. We have already experienced declines in recruitment of elk in populations surrounding YNP of 33 to 62 percent, these population declines will not only continue in the GYE but will expand to adjacent herds if immediate action is not taken to delist wolves and allow for state management of the wolf population. It is probably already too late for moose populations in the GYE.

We are at a critical juncture in this process – the Wyoming legislature will convene this month and if the members of said legislature are not convinced to change the legislation to eliminate the dual classification, then delisting will be delayed for yet another year pending legislative action in 2010. In the meantime, the wolves will continue to breed and eat at our expense. I would encourage you to contact your local legislators and express your concern about the current management plan and the need to revise the legislation and plan to designate wolves as trophy game animals state wide. To find email addresses for your legislators, go to <http://legisweb.state.wy.us/email/email.htm>. It is time for the sportsmen and women of Wyoming to stand up and be heard loud and clear on this issue.

2009 WHITE ELEPHANT BAR-B-QUE

As you probably know by now, the seventh annual White Elephant Bar-b-Que is scheduled for Saturday, April 18, 2009 at the Best Western Ramkota Inn. We have already reserved the space, so you should mark your calendars accordingly. Also, if you have an interest in helping with the event in 2009, please contact Bob Anderson at 307-473-1268. The event this year will be limited to the dinner and auction only - we do not plan on having a mini sportsman's show this year in conjunction with our dinner event. We already have a number of hunts lined up for the auction and are starting to select the merchandise that will be offered in conjunction with the event.

As you know, I sent out an email out to our membership on December 12, 2008 asking for your preferences for a speaker at our April 18, 2009 dinner event. The result was overwhelmingly in favor of Garth and Jason Carter – accordingly, our speakers for the 2009 dinner event will be Garth and Jason Carter from Cedar City, Utah. Garth and his son Jason run Carter's Hunter Services and publish The Huntin' Fool magazine monthly. For those of you who may not know Garth Carter, he has been publishing The Huntin' Fool magazine for about 13 years now – the magazine focuses on the best units in each state for big game, species by species, and advises readers on which units to apply for, drawing odds, trophy quality, etc. They also operate Carter's Hunter Services offering a license application service - Garth and his son Jason have become experts on hunting big mule deer and elk in the western United States and the success of their magazine seems to have grown exponentially in the last few years – particularly among those individuals who apply religiously each year for non-resident big game tags in the western “draw states”.

GREAT ROCKIES SPORT SHOW

The Great Rockies Sport Show is coming to the Casper Events Center on January 30 through February 1, 2009 and the Central Wyoming Chapter has reserved a booth at the show. Our exhibitor package allows us to have a maximum of twelve (12) worker badges - these badges are non-transferable and allow the individual holder free access to the show. We will be looking for twelve members of the Central Wyoming Chapter to assist with booth set-up and tear-down and to man the booth during the three day

show. Based on preliminary information, the show will include hunting and fishing exhibitors from around the world and will represent a good opportunity for SCI to spread the word about why membership in SCI is so important. Please contact either Bob Anderson (307-473-1268) or Rick Bonander (307-234-2058) if you would be willing to help with the booth during the upcoming sport show. **We need your help to make this happen!**

MEMBERSHIP

Our membership as of December 18, 2008 stands at 143 active members, with an additional 47 members who have allowed their memberships to lapse. If you have any questions concerning the current status of your membership or would be interested in contacting any of these lapsed members in an effort to secure their renewals, please contact Bob Anderson at 307-473-1268.

Buy, Sell and Trade Firearms

www.rogermgreen.com

In conjunction with the Great Rockies Sport Show, we will be initiating a membership drive for new members. Any adult that joins SCI and the Central Wyoming Chapter will receive one entry in a drawing to be held for a brand new Weatherby Vanguard bolt action rifle in .270 Winchester, fitted with a Leupold Vari-X II 3X9 variable scope. The membership drive will conclude on April 18, 2009 and the winner of the rifle will be drawn in conjunction with the dinner event. The annual membership fee of the Central Wyoming Chapter will be waived for new members joining in conjunction with this membership drive, but all memberships must be processed directly through the Central Wyoming Chapter to be eligible for the drawing. In addition, the winner of the rifle must be over 18 years of age and legally eligible to own a firearm in accordance with existing federal firearms laws.

SENSORY SAFARI

Those of you who attended the 2009 Wyoming Hunting and Fishing Heritage Expo at the Casper Events Center in September no doubt saw the Sensory Safari Trailer brought over to the event by the Treasure Valley Chapter in Nampa, Idaho. You may have also seen the trailer in the background of several news broadcasts from the floor of the Expo aired on KTWO television. What many of you probably don't know is that the Central Wyoming Chapter funded the transportation of this trailer to/from Idaho for the event - not only this year, but for the past four years in a row, resulting in a total expenditure over this four year period of approximately \$8,600. Attendance at the Expo this year was estimated at 12,996 individuals, with a large attendance from school children from around the state on Thursday and Friday. Unfortunately, very few people know that the Central Wyoming Chapter has funded this trailer for the past four years.

Considering the escalating cost of transporting the trailer to/from Casper and the general lack of acknowledgement for our efforts, the Central Wyoming Chapter is looking into the possibility of building our own trailer for use at the annual Expo and at other venues across the state. Steve Sibrel and Paris Blair are heading up a committee to explore the options available to us based on what other chapters have done and also to provide a fairly firm cost estimate for such an undertaking. Once the committee has completed its' work, the Board will review the information and will make a recommendation to the membership as appropriate.

WEBSITE

The new website is up and running and I hope that each of you will take some time to visit the site - I think that you will be impressed with the end product. We have already received comments from several individuals in the national organization to the effect that our new site is the best one that they have seen, so I think that you might want to take a look and see what we have done. The calendar will be a good place to visit on a regular basis to see what is going on and to remind you of important dates relative to SCI, the Central Wyoming Chapter, and hunting in general. As each new edition of the newsletter comes out, it will be posted to the website, along with information on the upcoming dinner event and other items of interest to both our readers and the interested public – so I would encourage you to visit the site monthly to keep abreast of what's happening.

As discussed last month, the site also includes a trophy room where we have posted pictures of selected trophies taken by our members. If you have digital photos of that special trophy that you would like to display on the new website, please forward your digital photographs to Bob Anderson along with some basic information concerning the species, date harvested, where taken, etc. and we will get your photos posted to the site. Please do not alter your photographs, send the original digital image with the information requested and we will take it from there.

Again, our website address will remain www.sciwyoming.com and we hope that the redesigned site will serve as a platform not only to disseminate information to the general public about our organization but also as an informational service to our members concerning upcoming events, matters of local and national importance, and information on our ongoing programs for conservation, education and humanitarian services. There will also be an opportunity for limited advertising on our site and if we have members who would like to advertise their goods and services on the site, you will need to give Bob Anderson a call at 307-473-1268.

RAFFLE FOR 2009 WYOMING COMMISSIONER'S LICENSE

The Central Wyoming Chapter, Safari Club International will be raffling a complimentary big game license for the 2009 Wyoming big game hunting season generously provided by Commission President and Chapter Member Jerry Galles. The license will be valid for one specific species (either antelope, deer or elk) and for one specific region or hunt area to be designated by the raffle winner.

Holders of complimentary licenses are exempt from the provisions of Wyoming State Law limiting the number of licenses an individual can possess in any one calendar year. Please note that complimentary elk licenses are not valid for elk hunt areas 75, 76 and 79 which are located within Grand Teton National Park. The winner will be responsible for applicable license fees.

Tickets for the license are priced at \$20 each, six (6) tickets for \$100, or thirteen (13) tickets for \$200 (best deal) and are available from Bob Anderson - or you can download the form from our website (www.sciwyoming.com) and mail along with payment to our address shown below. The drawing for the license will be held on April 18, 2009 in conjunction with our seventh annual White Elephant Dinner Event.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

A cash bar will be open and available during the evening for refreshments. For those of you who would like to come early and have dinner, you may order from either the bar menu (lighter fare) or from the regular dinner menu at your discretion - cash or check please for non-club members. Spouses are always welcome - be sure to bring your better half and introduce them to our chapter, some fantastic

presentations, and the adventure of the great outdoors! Likewise, children are also welcome and are the future of hunting both in North America and elsewhere. We encourage you to bring your kids, introduce them to SCI and the Central Wyoming Chapter and promote our sport. As the SCI bumper sticker says: "Hunt with your kids, not for them". We encourage you to bring a friend, introduce them to Safari Club International, and help our new club continue to grow.

Annual Safari Club International dues are \$55.00 and annual Chapter Dues are \$20.00 for individual memberships. Come join us to promote hunting, a great time and some tall tales! Bring your hunting friends - they need to be members of SCI. Pursuant to our bylaws and the bylaws of SCI, you MUST be a member in good standing of Safari Club International in order to be a member of the Central Wyoming Chapter. Any questions regarding the current status of your membership, please contact Bob Anderson at 473-1268.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have questions or require information regarding SCI, the Central Wyoming Chapter, or the contents of this newsletter, please feel free to contact one of the officers listed below:

Name	Title	Telephone
Bob Anderson	President	307-473-1268
Roger Green	Vice-President	307-473-1112
Elaine King	Secretary	307-262-3220
Gail Zimmerman	Treasurer	307-235-1173

NOTICE

If you have news or announcements that you would like included in future issues of the newsletter, please forward your information to Bob Anderson: biologist@prodigy.net.

Finally, if any of our members have experience with Desktop Publishing and would like to take a swing at upgrading our newsletter, we would be grateful for the help. The Central Wyoming Chapter has a real chance to win a major award from SCI in 2009 if we can take our chapter activities to the next step, so we would appreciate any help from our membership to enhance the newsletter or become more involved in SCI and SCIF programs to promote the mission of SCI locally and on a state-wide basis. So, if you have an interest in helping us to be all that we can be, please contact Bob to discuss these possibilities.

OBITUARY

Chapter Member Timothy James "Tim" Ketelsen, 56, passed away on November 18, 2008 at the Memorial Hospital of Converse County in Douglas. Memorials may be made to the Moose Lodge #602 Scholarship Fund (P.O. Box 168; Douglas, WY 82633) or a charity of the donor's choice.

