

A man with a beard and glasses, wearing camouflage clothing, is kneeling in a field of tall, dry grass. He is smiling and looking towards the camera. In front of him is the head of a ram with large, curved horns. The man is holding the ram's head. To the right of the man, there is a crossbow and some other gear. In the background, there are some dead trees and a clear sky.

Read about Matt
Lentsch's HA-12
Archery hunt
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Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation

The **RAMPAGE**

Fall 2018

ENCAMPMENT KIDS CONTINUE WILD SHEEP STUDY

BY JORDAN SEITZ

Last winter 6th and 8th grade students from the Encampment K12 school had the opportunity to assist local agencies in radio collaring and collecting health data from their local bighorn sheep population (see article in the Spring 2018 RAMPAGE). In the spring, those same students headed back into the field to locate some of the collared sheep using telemetry gear, and observe their habitat. They then helped draft a letter to the Carbon County Committee Members for the Wyoming Public Lands Initiative. The classes took the stance that their local Encampment River WSA (Wilderness Study Area -- part of the local sheep's home range) should be given wilderness protection. It was a tough decision because of the pros and cons that would come with giving the land

the official wilderness title. Fast forward to this fall, and another set of students joined the "Sheep Study." Through classroom presentations on bighorn sheep and phenology, and outdoor field observations, this group will also learn and gather data about the local sheep population. In early October, the students loaded into 4x4s and shuttled up into the foothills where they weathered a couple hours of much needed rain wearing rain gear or gathering under a tarp draped over the hatch of a suburban before the sun came out. It was an excellent "character building" experience (stated by Cufaude as the rain poured down) in addition to educational! Their teacher Jordan Seitz says, "I thoroughly enjoy partnering with local experts and agencies, like Game and Fish, to

study environment related topics in our Platte Valley. Not only does it give my students an opportunity to engage in unique conversations, but they also gain a better perspective and understanding of our natural resources by getting outside and experiencing them first-hand." The plan for the Sheep Study is to continue studying and monitoring the sheep habitat and population down the road (literally!), with hopes to map the core areas the sheep inhabit at various times through the year, and identify key travel corridors. Their goal is to use the gathered data to eventually propose a habitat improvement project. A big thanks goes to G&F biologists Will Schultz, Katie Cheesbrough, and Teal Cufaude for sharing their time and knowledge with the students of Encampment!

