

*~ Sportsmen working for the future of Nevada's wildlife ~*

# NBU JOURNAL

NEVADA BIGHORNS  
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## THANKS TO LARRY JOHNSON FOR HIS YEARS DEDICATED TO NBU





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## EDITOR'S LETTER

As we are wrapping the 3rd quarter edition of the NBU journal, many sportsmen and sportswomen in Nevada are already out in the mountains somewhere on early season hunts and enjoying Nevada's wildlife. The fall is a slower time of the year (relatively speaking) for NBU. Project season is over and the banquet still has some time to go.

This year's projects are recapped by Tom Pellett in this edition of the journal. We had a great project season and built multiple new guzzlers, completed spring fencing projects, and completed various guzzler maintenance projects. Tom does a great job going over what NBU did and where. As always we couldn't complete these projects without the 'guzzler crew,' which consists of our NBU volunteers who donate their time for improving Nevada's wildlife and habitat.

Also in this edition Dr. Dennis Wilson, Treasurer, provides a treasurer's report of the funding items throughout the year. As most people know, NBU is an all-volunteer organization, and strives to be efficient in putting sportsmen's dollars to work on the ground in Nevada.

Also in the news on the board of directors, Larry Johnson, Dan Price and Greg Smith have stepped off the board. These three dedicated sportsmen put in many years and countless hours on the board, and we can't say thank you enough for the time donated. Even though this issue is dedicated to Larry Johnson, the tremendous involvement of Danny and Greg is truly appreciated. This edition has some stories on Larry and Danny as a thank you for their time spent on Nevada's wildlife. This edition also has some great hunt stories, a recap of the auctioned Nevada Outdoorsman in Wheelchairs turkey hunt, and pictures from the two auctioned Gold Ram BBQ's that took place this summer in Midas and Elko.

The banquet this year was one of the best on record, and we are already starting to gear back up for next year. One new addition or comeback item will be the taxidermy competition is being brought back. A few differences from years past: 1. there will be a people's choice only vote that is included on the individual dinner tickets. Boxes will be placed prominently in front of each piece of taxidermy, and the vote will be tallied and announced before the end of dinner. 2. There will be no 'Director's Choice' vote. 3. There will be two categories this year, one small game (fish, small mammals, birds) and one big game category, each will have a separate entry. These pieces will all be done and submitted by our great Nevada taxidermists, and is a great opportunity to showcase some phenomenal work and specialty pieces of taxidermy.

Hopefully you enjoy this 3rd quarter edition of the NBU journal, and good luck this fall and hunting season!

*Tom Fennell*

Tom Fennell  
Nevada Bighorns Unlimited

Send us pictures in your NBU hunting gear from hunting season to [Tfennell@dicksoncre.com](mailto:Tfennell@dicksoncre.com)



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### Submission Dates:

Spring Issue:	January 31st
Summer Issue:	April 15th
Fall Issue:	August 15th
Winter Issue:	November 15th

For more information on NBU call (775) 323-1177 or visit our website <http://NevadaBighornsUnlimited.org>



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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As I consider the history of this great organization, I have to say that it's a bit humbling to think that I'll be president for the next two years. Some amazing directors and past presidents have preceded me in making NBU such a great success, and they've set some pretty high standards to live up to. Luckily, there's a great group of guys that make up our board of directors and I came to realize pretty quickly that this isn't just your average board; it's more of a family.

Special thanks go out to immediate past President Jeff Turnipseed for all of his hard work and devotion to NBU. During his presidency, he dedicated countless hours in the name of enhancing Nevada's wildlife and showed many of us that no matter how busy life gets, there always seems to be time for NBU.

As we move into the 2015-2016 hunting season, which many of us have been waiting for all year, we wrap up another great project season and have already started planning for next year's projects. Many new challenges lie in store for us as wildlife enthusiasts trying to make a positive impact on the landscape. Among them, which many of you are well aware of, is greater sage-grouse management. The month of September has a couple of milestone events relating to the way we manage greater sage-grouse and their habitat in the Great Basin. These include a possible Record of Decision on the Greater Sage-grouse Environmental Impact Statement and a possible Endangered Species Act listing determination. Both have major implications on wildlife management moving forward, including bighorn sheep. There's a good possibility that in the future the term 'multiple use management' won't mean the same thing that it did to many of us when we were growing up. Enough about that for now though. We'll be sure to keep the membership updated as things progress.

To-date, 2015 has been an exceptional year for NBU. We had one of our best banquets on record and completed a

number of outstanding habitat projects that will surely benefit Nevada's wildlife for generations to come. None of this could have been possible without your support and I proudly tip my hat to each and every one of our members and especially our volunteers.

Here's to building new partnerships and maintaining those we already have with the various friends of bighorn sheep throughout Nevada and North America!

Thank you,

Joshua Vittori  
President  
Nevada Bighorns Unlimited





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## BASIN AND RANGE NATIONAL MONUMENT

By Larry Johnson

President Barack Obama has recently created the Basin and Range National Monument (monument) by presidential proclamation. These reserved Federal lands encompass approximately 704,000 acres in Garden Valley and Coal Valley lying in southeastern Nye County and northwestern Lincoln County. The monument lies north of Hiko and State Route 375 and approximately 30 miles west of Pioche and U.S. Highway 93.

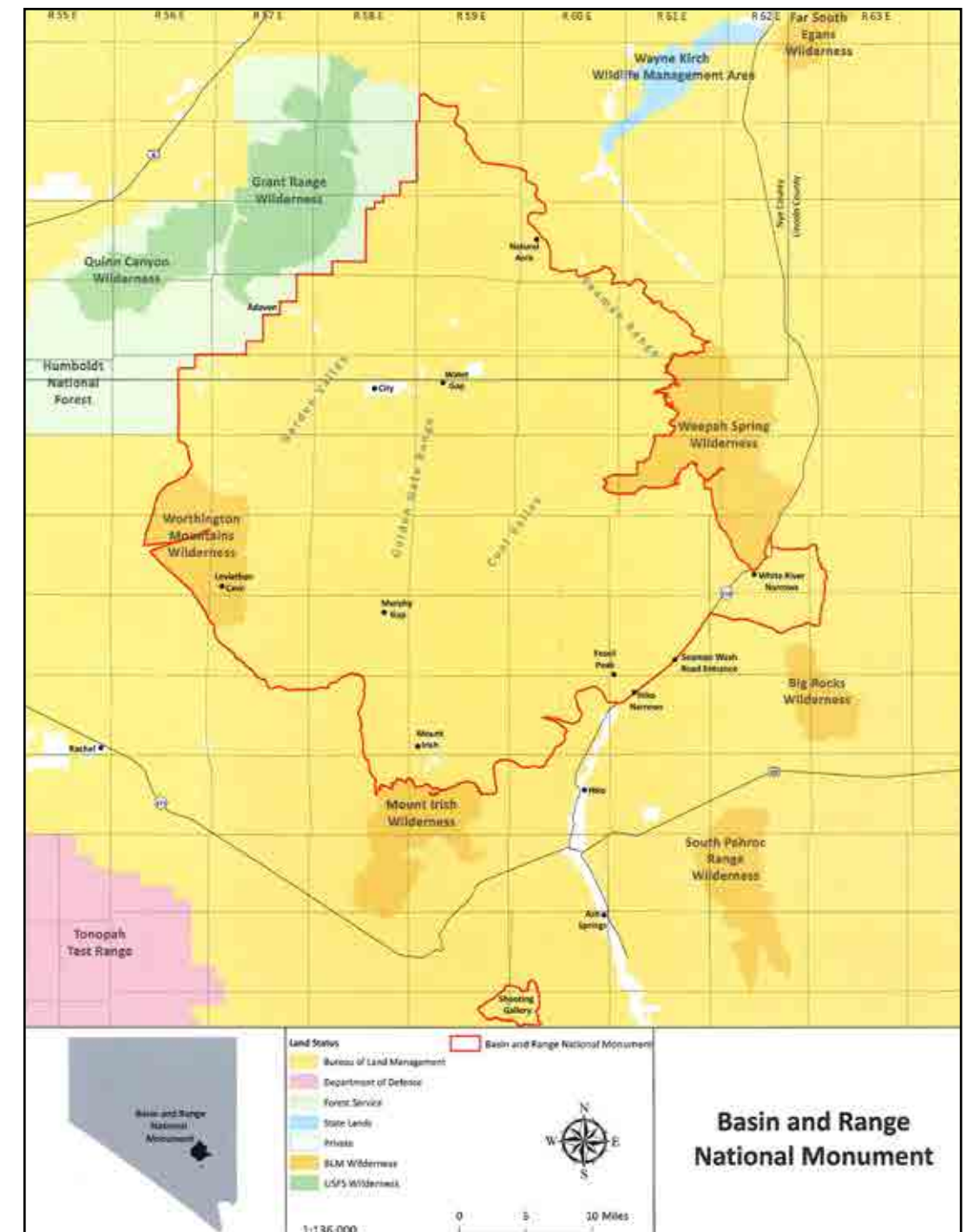
These federal BLM lands and accompanying interests are withdrawn from all forms of disposal or disposition including mining, and geothermal development or land sales or exchanges. The monument includes the Worthington Mountain Wilderness and borders the already designated Mount Irish and Weepah Spring Wilderness, while lying in close proximity to the Big Rocks, Grant Range, and Quinn Canyon Wilderness areas.

The establishment of the monument is subject to valid existing rights (mining claims, water rights, etc.). A few private inholdings are present including "City" owned by artist Michael Heizer. "City" is a land-art display that combines modern abstract architecture and engineering with ancient American aesthetic influences on a large scale roughly the size of the National Mall in Washington DC.

What does this mean for Nevada's sportsmen and wildlife resources? On one hand, the proclamation does not affect the jurisdiction of the State (NDOW) to manage fish and wildlife, and all existing uses are to be perpetuated. In reality, BLM has the authority to manage the area "as applicable" to the provisions of the Wilderness Act. What this really means is that sportsmen and NDOW must remain forever vigilant so that BLM management policies do not adversely impact our interests, whether it be access, trapping, ability to build and maintain water developments (guzzlers), collar big game, ability to fight

wildfires and restore using mechanized equipment, and all other issues that continue to plague us in wilderness management.

It is unclear how management policy will be established, whether solely by BLM after holding a series of public hearings, or by a BLM working group that includes all stakeholders. Regardless, sportsmen need to get involved to protect our interests and assure proper management authority of our wildlife resources and their habitat.







# IT'S BACK!

**NBU's Taxidermy Competition  
Returns in 2016!**

**2 Categories ~ 2 People's Choice Winners**

Categories include: Large Mammal & Small Mammals/Birds/Fish

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YOUR DONATIONS WORKING FOR THE FUTURE OF NEVADA’S WILDLIFE



By Dennis Wilson, NBU Treasurer

Thanks to the outstanding donations from our supporters, NBU was able to fund valuable projects and programs this year. We focused on bighorn sheep trap and transplant projects, habitat improvement projects, youth programs, wildlife research projects, disease outbreak investigations, and public awareness. As a premier volunteer sportsmen’s organization, all the below listed projects were accomplished with donated funding and donated volunteer time. Since NBU is a 100% volunteer organization the vast majority of all funds raised go directly “on the ground”!

HABITAT IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS:

NBU was very active in this arena this year. We funded and built the following projects:

**Guzzlers and Spring Developments.** We build guzzlers (water collection and storage projects) for the benefit of Nevada’s wildlife. All manner of wildlife have been documented at these sites including big game species, upland game species, non-game mammals, game birds, song birds and raptors. This year we built five new guzzlers:

- Sites #2 (Eastside Hills / Candelaria)
- Nevada Guide Service (Rhyolyte / Gabbs Valley)
- Cherry Mountain (Two new builds at this site in northern Washoe County)
- Eagle Picher (Virginia Range)

We worked on guzzler repairs and refurbishing at the following sites:

- Gabbs Wildhorse
- Gabbs Table Mountain
- Excelsior Silver Dyke
- Sand Springs
- Water Haul Funding for Poppy Guzzler (Southern Nevada)

We worked on three Spring Development sites (fencing the spring to allow use by wildlife only, and supplying water tanks outside the spring fencing for livestock and feral horses)

- Biddleman Springs (Virginia Range)
- Spanish Flats (Washoe County) two spring development sites

**Habitat.** The University of Nevada Bootstraps Program allows youth to participate with habitat improvement projects such as Pinion/Juniper thinning and other important projects.

►► For Guzzler and Habitat projects throughout Nevada, NBU donated \$136,915.

YOUTH PROGRAMS:



NBU strongly believes in supporting youth programs to promote future generations of sportsmen and sportswomen. NBU donated volunteer time and funding to many events. We helped sponsor Nevada Outdoorsmen in Wheelchairs, the National Archery in the Schools Program, the Tonopah Kids Fishing Derby, the Sparks Rotary Kids Free Fishing Day, Carson City Bailey Pond Kids Fishing Day, NBU Legacy Scholarship, Carson High School Outdoors Class, Manogue High School Air Rifle Team, UNR Wildlife Society, Wild Sheep Foundation’s Youth Wildlife Conservation Experience, Range Camp, and the Nevada Department of Wildlife’s Lathrop-Capurro Internship program.

The 5th Annual Maison T Ortiz Youth Outdoor Skills Camp was a phenomenal success, with outstanding donations from NBU members of time, talent and funding. This amazing program will continue to teach less-experienced youth about firearms shooting and safety,

fishing, Dutch Oven cooking, archery, outdoor survival, wildlife calls, wildlife tracks, and a general appreciation of the wonder and beauty of the Nevada outdoors.

►► Youth program funding: \$44,676.

BIGHORN SHEEP TRAP/TRANSPLANT, DISEASE MONITORING PROJECTS AND THE BIGHORN SHEEP/MOUNTAIN GOAT MONITORING PROJECT:

Trap and Transplant projects help to introduce new animals to appropriate habitat, help with genetic diversity, and offer a means for disease assessment and population control. California Bighorn Sheep were successfully trapped via helicopter net-gunning and transplanted into areas needing augmentation. The Area 10 Bighorn Sheep and Mountain Goat Monitoring Project is vital to follow up on the transplant of Alberta Bighorn Sheep into the East Humboldt Range, along with studying the interaction between Bighorn Sheep and Mountain Goats. Disease monitoring occurred in various herds throughout the state. NBU also assisted with funding for a new Nevada Department of Wildlife transport trailer.



►► Funding for bighorn sheep trap and transplant, disease monitoring and trailer: \$55,417.



WILDLIFE RESEARCH PROJECTS AND NDOW’S BEAR DOG PROGRAM:

Research is vital to understand wildlife habitat needs, population dynamics, migration patterns, predation, and species biology. Disease studies are imperative to help understand and control devastating respiratory disease problems facing Nevada’s bighorn sheep population. Washington State University’s research into bighorn sheep respiratory disease complex remains world-class and is generating exciting results.

Sharptail Grouse studies (artificial insemination) are occurring in northern Nevada, this research will lead to further wildlife diversity and opportunity for sportsmen.

NBU also contributed to the Nevada Department of Wildlife’s Bear Dog Program to assist with the highly successful black bear management program

►► Total donations for Wildlife Research Projects and Bear Dog Program: \$15,500.

PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION, EVENT SPONSORSHIPS:

Educating the public as to the importance of volunteer sportsmen and how sportsmen contribute to the overall conservation of wildlife species is vital to preserve our heritage and our commitment to wildlife conservation. Sponsorship of professional and legislative events promotes scientific knowledge and highlights NBU’s commitment to our mission.



►► Total donations to Public Awareness and Education, Event Sponsorships: \$10,500.

Thanks to your generous contributions, NBU was able to fund \$263,008 for the benefit of Nevada’s wildlife. YOUR SUPPORT IS GREATLY APPRECIATED!



## AN INDOMITABLE SPIRIT CONQUERS ALL

By Larry Johnson

Some may say that Will Carrasco was dealt a difficult hand in the game of life; he was diagnosed with a degenerative nerve disease during his infancy that has left him wheelchair bound for the remainder of his life. His parents, Ray and Liz, vowed to give their son every life experience possible, and in doing so Will has developed an indomitable spirit that is truly inspiring.



I had the honor of meeting and hunting with Will and his dad a few years ago on a Nevada Outdoorsmen in Wheelchairs antelope hunt east of Eureka. At that time Will shot from the lap of his father. Will had the stock on his shoulder and looked through the scope, giving his dad instructions of which way to move his body to get on target. His dad would scrunch his body cradling Will until the crosshairs were aligned, at which time Will would give the command to shoot and dad would pull the trigger! It went something like this, “way left, no too far, back right a hair, now up a little, back right – now shoot!” While this may not seem like a very effective system, the antelope dropped like a rock at the first shot at a distance of 220 yards! I was impressed!

Several years later, Will has now harvested nineteen (19) big game animals including deer, antelope, elk and feral hogs. He now has a rifle mount on his wheel chair which he aims with the electronic controls in his lap. He still relies on someone else to pull the trigger on his command. He concluded rifle hunting was just too easy and switched to a crossbow the past couple of years.

Will was selected for a turkey hunt at the April NBU banquet in a drawing among past Nevada Outdoorsmen in Wheelchair hunters. The privilege of sponsoring Will on this hunt was auctioned off to our 2,200 banquet attendees

with Mike Dianda, of Q & D Construction, the generous high bidder. Pat Butler, an outfitter out of Oroville California, offered to guide the hunt. Dates of May 1 and 2 were selected. Our entourage consisted of Will, his mother, Liz, and father, Ray, myself, and Duncan, a freelance videographer. Mike Dianda also has an outdoor hunting show and offered to film the hunt for his TV show. Pat and his father, Dick, graciously opened up their homes for all of us to stay.

The morning of the hunt we were up hours before daylight and, after gulping down breakfast burritos, made the drive to the hunt area. A local farmer was good enough to grant Pat permission to hunt in his olive orchard for this special event. Will is equipped with a remarkable electric wheel chair that he guides with a joy stick over the terrain. We set up pop-up blinds and set out life-sized, full body taxidermy decoys. Will's dad wasn't feeling well, as he was recovering from a bad horse wreck that broke his pelvis and lower back, so both parents stayed with the vehicles a few hundred yards away. We sat in our blinds in the dark listening to turkeys yelp, cluck, and gobble from their roosts a couple hundred yards away. The turkeys flew down from their roosting trees shortly after daylight, and we could occasionally hear or see glimpses of them in the distance. Pat and Dick called seductively, trying to lure a gobbler away from his hens to meet up with a new love.

Suddenly it happened. Four gobblers appeared and moved steadily in our direction. The bravest one marched right up to challenge our male decoy which had been mounted in a full strut pose. When Will maneuvered his chair to acquire the gobbler in his scope, we (and apparently the gobbler as well) could hear the electric mechanism. The gobbler at first was alarmed and jumped back, joining up with his three buddies. While ill at ease, the gobbler didn't bolt due to Pat and Dick's continual reassuring calls. With the lead gobbler presenting a frontal shot, Will re-acquired his target and gave the command to shoot. Pat pulled the trigger on the crossbow and the tom dropped like it was struck by lightning! I've never seen a turkey drop like that when blasted by a shotgun, let alone by an arrow! We were all so shocked that Pat let out a Holy \_ \_ \_ ! But that can be edited out before it hits the TV show.

It is unfortunate that Will's parents were unable to witness the hunt, but enough pictures tell the story. NBU will have

a full-body mount of Will's gobbler, and have purchased a dozen cross bow arrows and target to keep his aim sharp.

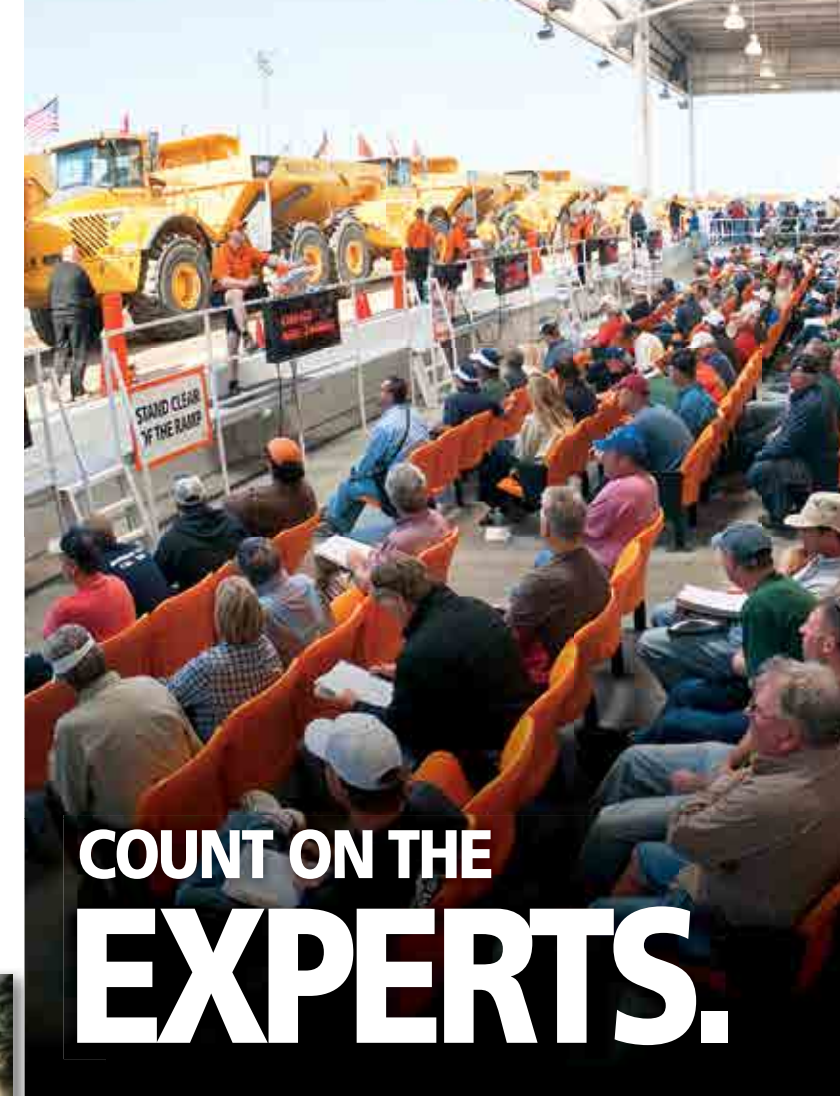
I cannot describe how gratifying it is to associate and hunt with all of those who made this possible:

- Mike Dianda – Hunt sponsor and Film Producer
- Pat & Dick Butler – Guides extraordinaire
- Will's parents, Ray and Liz
- Eric Petlock, who coordinated the hunt
- Duncan – Videographer

And of course, Will Carrasco himself, with his quick wit and such a positive attitude. Will, who has been in a wheelchair all of his life, has this comeback to anyone who dares to whine around him. He says, “They make a new drug for your ailment; they call it Triactin – TRY ACTING LIKE A MAN!

Yep! Will has an indomitable spirit that will conquer all!

*Editors note: Big thanks to Mike Dianda for his generous donation at the NBU auction for the purchase of this awesome opportunity.*



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## NBU DONATES TO WASHOE COUNTY SHERIFF RESERVE PROGRAM

Once again the Washoe County Reserve officers provided security at our very successful annual fund raiser banquet. We put 2,257 people in the Peppermill's largest ball room, security was perfect without any altercations which is remarkable with that many people. NBU Directors Steve Field and Dennis Wilson present a \$1,800.00 donation check to Sheriff Chuck Allen and Reserve Deputy Program Director James Kocijanski.



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## 2015 Events Calendar

September 25 and 26th	Wildlife Commission Meeting	Las Vegas Set/Revise Fishing Regs
November 13, 14	Wildlife Commission Meeting	Reno Policy, Regs, and Program Reports
April 1, 2016	2016 NBU Banquet	

To sign up as an NBU volunteer go to the NBU website at [www.nevadabighornsunlimited.org](http://www.nevadabighornsunlimited.org)

For more information about upcoming events, volunteer opportunities or the NBU annual banquet, please contact any Board member or visit us on the web at [www.nevadabighornsunlimited.org](http://www.nevadabighornsunlimited.org) and the [Nevada Bighorns Unlimited - Reno](#) Facebook Page.



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# 2014 SEASON

By John Sperry

Being the lucky guy I am, I married a woman who shares a passion for hunting and the outdoors. To add to my luck, I married a woman with a phenomenal track record when it comes to drawing tags. Needless to say, when it was time to apply for 2014 big game tags, a party hunt was a “no brainer.”

My wife, Charli, and I drew a group archery deer tag for Northern Nevada and began preparing for the quick approaching season. Before scouting I reminisced about every chukar hunt where I “saw that one buck” or “found a shed once.” This soon followed by trying to remember every pile of droppings, hoof print, and all those “canyons that have to have a good buck in them.” Once all this important scouting information was processed, we put leather to dirt; scouting several days throughout June and July.

By the time opening day rolled around we only had a small handful of bucks located. With lower deer numbers and steep, dry terrain we wasted little time trying to slip in on the bucks we had turned up scouting. 9:00am opening morning I was 45 yards from a shaded up buck we called Optimus. Fortunately for Optimus he was accompanied by a bow legged forky we named Cricket. Here’s the thing about Cricket. Though his appearance was odd, and his demeanor weak, he had keen eyesight and a fierce mule deer sense for detecting a sweaty guy trying to hide in the brush. Thanks to Cricket I was benched without releasing an arrow and it was Charli’s turn to try her luck the following weekend.

We located the first buck on Charli’s list (Chewy) with only an hour left to hunt the second weekend. We dodged a few antelope and snuck to the last small ridge in between us and the feeding buck. Charli snuck over the ridge as I waited for what seemed like forever. This being the first stalk I had not accompanied Charli on, it was a whopping 10 minutes before I had to see what was unfolding 100 yards up the mountain from me. When I broke the ridge I didn’t see the buck, but locked eyes with Charli. Right then I knew archery fever had consumed her. With a smile and bright eyes Charli told me how she had stalked within 25 yards of him and made the decision to not take a steep quartering away shot as the buck fed into the next draw. Also, she mentioned



that I better get my deer next week because on her next weekend off, “she will be doing that again!”

As Charli had to work the following weekend and all my hunting buddies having prior obligations, I set off on a “solo mission.” At sun up I relocated Optimus only to have him unseen and spooked minutes later by antelope hunters. I glassed until the warm sun and bunch grass coaxed me into a mountain side snooze. An hour later I was woken by a single gun shot from the direction the bucks had run to. I threw up my binos just in time to see Optimus and Cricket come back over the ridge and quickly bed. I picked a route and began down the mountain toward the bucks!

Popping back over the ridge I was on, I was was able to quickly lose elevation and get cross canyon from Optimus, which was around 700 yards away. I decided to glass over my route one last time and maybe take a brief glance at the buck the antelope hunters took when lo and behold an unaccounted for buck was 150 yards from me sleeping on a juniper covered, rocky ridge. I took a quick glance at him; instantly knowing he was a much higher percentage play than Optimus. I worked my way around him and within 10 minutes was at full draw, and slowly standing to take the shot.

Looking through my peep sight I instantly knew something had gone bad. As my 20 yard pin settled on the tree he was under a loud crash came from my right and the buck bounded by. The buck had moved beds. “Solo hunting problems.” I peeked around the rock however to see him giving me the classic mule deer look back pose. I slipped back down the ridge and found him in the same pose where he remained for an hour and then rebedded.



I ranged him at 50 yards, and settled behind a large boulder for the next couple hours. With day light fading, and being more than comfortable at that distance, I made the decision to take a bedded shot. I slowly stood up from behind the boulder and sent an arrow. The buck exploded out of his bed and ran 80 yards to his final resting spot. After a boot and pack recovery hike I quartered and packed the buck back up the mountain to the truck. That evening I was met by a pal who harvested his antelope earlier that morning. He drove 150 miles of dirt road, but unfortunately was just late enough to miss the pack out, yet made it just in the nick of time to help celebrate. I was happy to have company however. There isn’t anything quite like celebrating a successful hunt in Gods Country. My buck ended up being a heavy 3x4 with a spread just over 31”.

By the last weekend we had to hunt, Charli was determined to get on the board with archery tackle. The first day we had a close call with Optimus but couldn’t quite seal the deal. Seeing how he seemed to be heading for another hunt unit we set out to find new bucks. Later that day we found ourselves in uncharted territory and failed to turn up any deer. Making our way back to camp we happened to catch a couple bucks switching beds and just like that Charli was into her second stalk of the day. We made a big swing around the bucks and together went in for a shot. Crawling to the top of the ridge I slowly stood and took the range of the bucks. I gave a Charli “1” “8” hand gesture and slowly began to stand again to make sure the boys were still bedded. To my surprise the larger of the two bucks was standing broad side and looking away from us. Being 6’3, and a step up hill from Charli, I saw a perfect shot opportunity. Unfortunately Charli stands 5’3. When she stood up at full draw only the buck’s 3x3 frame was exposed from behind the ridge and soon the gig was up without a shot opportunity.

While sitting in camp that evening, we decide the following morning we would try to get cross canyon from where we had last seen the 3 point. We made a long hike up the ridge and began to glass. Panning across the canyon I caught a quick glimps of a buck dropping into a thick juniper pocket. The buck never emerged. Knowing it was going to be tough to relocate the buck



we slowly made our way to the other side of the canyon. As we glassed our way down the ridge we stumbled within 200 yards of the buck, fortunately undetected. To our surprise however, the buck had friends. Picking through the junipers, we found 4 more bucks including the 3x3 from the previous evening.

Charli decided to play it safe and gave the bucks a couple hours to switch to their afternoon beds. High noon passed, the bucks settled in, and the stalk was on! Charli swung around behind the bachelor group and popped over the ridge 60 yards above the bucks. Little did I know this would be the last time I would see her for a few hours. Sitting in the comfort of one of Nevada’s classic shale slides I was relieved to see a couple of the bucks stand up and begin to strip their velvet on the surrounding brush. After a much needed readjustment, I settled in for the show!

With the two larger bucks out of their beds I knew it wouldn’t be long before the action started. A 5x4 in the group stepped into an opening and just as my binos fixed in on him the group erupted out of the junipers, two of the bucks running directly at me. Together they crossed a small dip in the hillside, but by the time they started up the other side the 5x4 had fallen behind and was soon kicking up a cloud of dust! Charli threw me a thumbs up and waved me down the mountain. Arriving at the buck Charli told me she had walked out and stopped broadside at 50 yards. It goes without saying she made the opportunity count! I am so impressed by how relentless and efficient she is as a bow hunter. Few people, including myself have taken such a great first archery buck.

2014 was a banner year for us to say the least! A month later Charli also punched her her elk tag on a 7x7 Nevada bull. I am so very fortunate to have a wife and hunting partner all in one and cannot wait to get back on the mountain with her. We would like to thank all the organizations (especially NBU) and volunteers that bust their humps so Nevada sportsmen and women can have opportunities such as these. Thanks again for everything you do and letting us share our story with you! Cheers to the 2015 Big Game Season!

*Editors note: congrats to Johnny and Charli on a great 2014 season and on two stud archery bucks*



## LARRY JOHNSON

By Carl Lackey

One would have to search for a long time to find someone who enjoys volunteering on wildlife projects more than Larry Johnson; if such a person even exists. Larry's bright smile and distinctive laugh are always present regardless of the conditions or the work involved, or the circumstances.

Over the years Larry has helped with several bear projects, getting himself into *tight spots* and *uncomfortable positions* more than once, as that's just part of the job. I first invited Larry out to help with a bear capture in August of 2003. This particular bear was a 5 year old male who had been raiding open dumpsters in the Stateline area. The first order of business was to process the bear by giving it an ear tag and taking some measurements during which time Larry graciously offered to take the bear's temperature. He looked at me sheepishly with the thermometer in one hand and the bear's tail in his other, looking hopefully for confirmation that he was at the wrong end. He wasn't. Nonetheless, he was diligent in his duty, and being the ever conscious and inquisitive person that he is, he thought to ask "what is the average temperature of a bear under normal conditions?" I replied "I don't really know Larry, no one has ever taken the temperature of a bear that isn't tranquilized!" With that, we finished the processing and loaded the bear back into the culvert trap with Larry backing in to the trap while pulling on the hind legs of the bear and then having to crawl out of the trap over the top of the bear, cheerful as always.

Summer trapping/snaring projects to collar bears followed up by winter denning to tag the cubs of collared sows is something that Larry routinely assists on. We've had a lot of fun over the last couple of years camping out and checking foot snares, and whenever I had my kids along they would immediately take to Larry like he was their grandpa, with Larry giving them rides on his shoulders and driving them around in his Razor. I've really enjoyed tramping across western Nevada finding the often unique den sites these black bears choose to spend the winter in. A couple of bears in particular that Larry and I worked up together come to mind. The first was White-52, an older sow we caught using a foot snare in the Wellington Hills. This bear had a little history with me as I had first captured and collared her a few years prior in Hoyo Canyon after she got caught raiding some bee hives. That collar had failed so I was particularly pleased to catch her again in one of Larry's sets. Tranquilizing, processing and collaring her was exhausting work apparently, because when we were finished I spotted both the bear and Larry sleeping it off in the shade! (just kidding, Larry was the only one sleeping, but he didn't know that). We denned this bear later the next winter, tracking her to her den site with the help of the satellite collar she was wearing. There was no snow and the den was just a hole under a boulder so we approached the den cautiously. We could

see fur and we were almost ready to shoot the dart when we realized it was just that, a pile of fur. Unfortunately, for reasons still unknown, she had died during hibernation approximately a month prior.

We had also collared another female the previous summer, and this bear took to living in the southern Pinenut Mountains. We found her den in what was more like chukar habitat than bear; steep, dry and rocky. It's not often that bears hibernate in actual caves but that's more or less what this one was. It was a big crevasse within some truck size boulders and the bear had made her nest near the back, about 12 feet inside. After I tranquilized this bear Larry and Eric Dalen crawled up and picked up the two cubs to keep them warm while I worked on the mother bear. The smile on Larry's face while holding those cubs is priceless, as his grin was as wide as the cave!

I am looking forward to more of these adventures with Larry and wish him all the best in his "retirement" from the NBU board.



## LARRY JOHNSON

By Jim Puryear



The first time I met Larry Johnson I was about 12 to 14 years old. That would put our meeting in the early "60s". He and my uncle showed up at my parents house in Larry's jeep and they had two really nice mule deer bucks in the back. I can still see the big grin on Larry's face when he told us about that days hunt. Over the last fifty years I've been fortunate to see that grin/smile dozens and dozens of times.

In the early seventies we reconnected as members of the American Sportsman's club. We both had a friend in common that also joined the club, Robert Jaquish. Robert figures in prominently in the Larry story over a decade later.

I first realized how passionate Larry was about wildlife when Larry and I were walking out of the Ruby Mountains during an archery deer hunt. As we were walking down the trail we noticed a very large golden eagle standing 50-75 yards off the trail. He was on a point looking over the canyon below. We thought there was something odd about the scene as the eagle just stared at us and didn't seem interested in flying away. We concluded he was standing over a resent kill..... maybe a rabbit or last spring's fawn. We decided to slowly walk over and take a look. At about 25 yards it became apparent that the eagle's leg had become

entwined in some loose barbed wire and couldn't fly away. Larry instantly turned to me and said, "We're going to release him. You go over and distract him and I'll sneak behind him and throw my jacket over him to keep him calm. When I'm holding the jacket over him and he calms down you come in and untangle the wire." I could tell Larry was really upset over the situation and would not take no for an answer. I thought one of us would get our butt kicked..... hopefully it would be Larry. The Native American super hero took off his cape and threw it over the eagle, held him, calmed him down and I went in and released the eagle from the wire, all along Larry was doing some Indian eagle trance talk stuff to keep the eagle calm. I think he just made it up to keep me calm about heading directly into those talons. I don't know if talking worked on the eagle but I was convinced it was and moments later the magnificent eagle was once again flying over his domain. Larry's smile was even bigger than the day we met.

Fast forward over a decade later and I'm president of NBU Reno. Robert Jaquish was also on the board and we had an opening and Robert nominated Larry Johnson. I thought what a great idea. Larry got the nod and showed up the next meeting. He didn't say a word for the next 2 to 3 meetings. After one of the meetings another Board member came up to me and said he thought Larry may not be a good catch for NBU, he just doesn't interact with us .... no participation. In retrospect Larry was sitting back analyzing how the board worked. The next meeting the "Caped Native American" showed up and Katy Bar the Doors. Larry is one of the guys that took NBU to the next level and BEYOND.

The stories of Larry's compassion for wildlife and for his fellow man goes on and on. Like the time Larry and Mel Belding volunteered to help Mark Bohach and I put on a desert sheep hunt for a young man who was paralyzed from mid back down. Larry brought his horses down for the entire hunt. He and Mel had a great camp for us and did all the wrangling. The hunt was successful and I got to see that great big grin/smile again.

I am fortunate to know Larry and proud to consider him a close friend. He will be missed at board meetings but he is on to bigger and better things for wildlife. I know he will be working even harder behind the scene using that cape of his that I first saw over 40 years ago.

Respectfully Written, Jim Puryear



*Thanks Larry for all of your years on the board and  
for the time you've spent to help Nevada's wildlife.*





LARRY THE LION GUY

By Dr. Alyson Andreasen, Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Science, University of Nevada, Reno

Although I started my career as a mountain lion biologist because of my passion for wildlife, one of the most fulfilling parts of my work has been the incredible people that I have met and the friendships that I have made. Larry Johnson is at the top of that list. Larry’s dedication to wildlife in Nevada is unsurpassed and he is an inspiration for me to continue to work hard for things that sometimes seem impossible.

My PhD research was the first study to be conducted on lions in Nevada in nearly 30 years. Larry has worked as hard collecting data for this research as anyone else, and all on a volunteer basis. To study patterns of mountain lion prey selection, we radio-collar mountain lions with GPS collars to locate and investigate mountain lion kill sites. Most people don’t know the amount of time and effort needed to catch one lion or visit sites. Getting to just four of these kill sites can typically take a 12-15 hour day of rough ATV travel and hiking rocky, off trail terrain in Nevada’s backcountry. At nearly 70 years old, Larry has hiked hundreds of miles for this research and collected data at more than 120 sites. Because he can out-hike nearly everyone I know, he will go anywhere, and he complains about nothing. I of course select the hardest, most remote kill sites with the longest hikes for him to visit, or ones that I have failed to locate, knowing Larry will always be up for the task. For example, I was once run off a kill by a black bear sow and two cubs; Larry returned later to finish the job and intercept the bears if needed. In another instance, Larry hiked 8 hours, into what he refers to as the “hell-hole,” in scorching mid-summer heat through barren desert mountains to inventory the remains of a single kill.

While for many volunteers, an expected perk of mountain lion work is the capture and handling of live animals, Larry humbly takes on any task that is necessary for the research without expecting the reward of handling lions. Larry has therefore selflessly assisted in all aspects of the field research, of which less than 1% of time spent is actually catching lions. In fact, each day, more excited than the last (“hell-hole” excluded), Larry eagerly reports on finds from necropsying the foul smelling remains of recent lion kills. Despite the hours of effort, Larry has been on more unsuccessful lion chases than successful ones, though this is typical lion tracking of course. Yet that has not deterred his enthusiasm. Larry thrives on the hard work, the time in Nevada’s backcountry that he works endlessly to conserve, and collecting the data, not just the prize at the end.

Larry’s dedication to all aspects of my PhD research since the early days made him privy to the adventures (and misadventures) of the steep learning curve of field methodology of which he has been not just forgiving but enthusiastic. For instance, obtaining data on mountain lion birth rates and cub survival, where we



attempt to enumerate and mark all offspring, took quite a lot of trial and error where a small margin of error is prudent. After Larry and I nearly exhausted our adrenaline supplies jumping female lions from their dens, we figured out the easier and safer method of watching from a vantage point until the female voluntarily leaves her cubs. On one such occasion, the cubs were suckling as Mom lay relaxed on her side, but with eyes locked on the lucky observers for minutes before she got up. She left her kittens tucked under a shrub and stealthily moved through the sage and away over the hillside. We managed to mark the three cubs and with less stress to the female lion and to ourselves than previous efforts.

Although Larry, as most of us know, is an extremely busy man, he somehow made time to drop everything to assist when needed. A winter evening back in 2012 was just such an instance when I called Larry and asked for help with a last minute lion capture at a bait station that had been hit by a lion the previous night. He left his house and even picked up my trap and supplies on the two-hour drive to meet me. He hiked the seven-foot long box trap into

the canyon. Almost dark, and with the snow beginning to settle, we hurried to stake the trap down and Larry climbed into the trap to secure the partially eaten deer as bait. This was usually my job, because I’m small, but I was pregnant at the time, and squeezing into the trap was becoming increasingly more difficult. With Larry tight in the trap, we fumbled with the rope as we tied the deer to the cage, fingers numb, in the cold and darkness, my green headlamp scanning the canyon, sure that the lion was watching from nearby. We made the final touches to the trap, set the signal to alert us when the door shut, and quickly headed out of the canyon. In less than an hour, we got a signal the trap door had closed and we returned to find two large, glowing eyes of the lion from inside the trap. After immobilizing the young male lion, Larry carefully collected valuable data from the lion while I fit the radio collar. As we readied the tarp and scale to weigh the lion, the frozen tarp crinkled loudly in the silent sheltered canyon, snapping the lion awake from his sleep. The lion jumped up and out of the tarp. Larry, thinking the cat was lunging for me, grabbed him by his scruff, turned him around and pinned him down while I quickly administered a drug reversal. The lion’s tail waved; his wide eyes

locked on Larry and me, and we quickly let him go. The young cat ran up the canyon about ten feet and then turned, green eyes glowing, staring at us for several seconds, before walking away, disappearing into the night. While I am sure that lion was not lunging for me, but only trying to get away, it sure is comforting to have someone like Larry around who can keep his cool but take action when necessary.

I couldn’t have wished for better people to work with in the field and I am incredibly lucky that Larry was so eager to dedicate his time selflessly working on this project. In addition to being hard working and loyal, Larry is a wealth of knowledge and is at absolute ease in the mountains no matter the circumstance. These qualities make time in the field with Larry a privilege. This is not to say that we haven’t had disagreements about lions, particularly in the early days, but I have learned from him and, he has also learned from his experiences with me and the lions that we have been fortunate enough to study.

LARRY THE LION GUY

By Robert Jaquish

I believe I met Larry 48 years ago, in 1967. My dad and Larry both worked for the same engineering firm. The three of us started going on numerous hunting and fishing trips, from our first big game hunt at Massacre Lake in Northern Washoe County in 1968, to 6 years ago when my dad harvested his Desert Bighorn Sheep at 90 years old, 2009.

I was a director of NBU Reno in its infinite stages, and Larry came to me and asked about getting on the board. So I brought it to the board at our meeting and he was unanimously voted in.

Little did I or any of the original founders anticipate how valuable a director Larry would become.

The countless hours on NBU, at NDOW, and the State Legislature, helped the sportsmen of Nevada beyond anybody’s comprehension.

Larry’s the kind of friend where we wouldn’t see each other for long periods of time, but when we hooked up we could pick up right where we left off.

Larry you’ve been a valuable friend and mentor for many years. We wish you the best in your next endeavors!





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2015 PROJECT RECAP

A special thank you to our NBU volunteer base for all their effort making the 2015 Water Development Season a success. The following is a list of completed projects for 2015.

2-21-2015 Biddleman Springs - Fencing of an existing spring with new drinker inside the fenced area and water piped out of fenced area to allow water access for cattle in the area. The access to this project was provided by Developer Lance Gilman. Joy Engineering provided a backhoe for the project and Dan Price - Anchor Concrete provided trucking and gravel material for the Spring Development. NBU provided needed tools and materials. Lunch & Dinner were provided for 33 volunteers that attended



4-4-2015 Rhyolite Guzzler Project (Mineral County) - 4,000 sf collection apron and 10,000 gallon water storage capacity and fenced drinker. Naming rights for this project were purchased by NBU Board Director Jim Puryear and family. Jim and several family members were present working on this project. Materials, tools and equipment provided by NDOW & NBU. Lunch and dinner provided by NBU for the 65 volunteers present.



3-14-2015 Eastside Guzzler Project (Mineral County) - 4,000 sf collection apron and 10,000 gallon water storage capacity and fenced drinker. The naming rights for this project were purchased by our good friend Dennis Sites. NDOW & NBU provided materials, tools and equipment for this project. Lunch and dinner were supplied by NBU for the 43 volunteers present.



5-16-2015 Cherry Mountain Guzzlers 2&3 (Washoe County) - (2) projects were constructed this weekend. A total of 60 volunteers, NDOW employees and NBU Board Members camped out at Wall Canyon Reservoir and were able to complete both projects in one day. Both builds were the NDOW standard 3000 sf apron with 7000 gallons of water storage. Materials and equipment were provided by NDOW and NBU. Lunch and dinner provided by NBU for the 61 volunteers able to attend.



4-25-2015 (3) R&R Projects (Mineral County) - (3) existing guzzler projects needed some attention due to aging and weather related issues. 1) Gabbs Table Mountain Guzzler, built next to a wash needed fencing repairs and rip-rap reinforcement of a bank washed out by severe rain storms. Tony Tipton of Mineral County provided a backhoe and operator for two days on this project. 2) Gabbs Wildhorse Canyon Guzzler required minor fence repairs and the removal and installation of a new drinker. Equipment provided by NDOW for this site. 3) Excelsior-Silver Dyke Guzzler, this project needed replacement an existing drinker that was damaged. Access to this site was by hike in only and all work done by hand. Tools and misc. materials were provided by NBU for these projects. NBU provided lunch and dinner for 26 volunteers.

6-6-2015 Eagle Picher Guzzler (USA Parkway) - Access granted to NDOW and NBU by the Eagle Picher Mine Corporation to construct a NBU Standard 4000 sf collection apron and 10,000 gallon water storage project on private property. Backhoe and operator were provided by Artistic Gardens owner Gary Hull for two days to prep and complete the site work. Joy Engineering came to our rescue with donation of a Komatsu Cat Machine which was used to drag our pickups with trailers attached and materials loaded to the top of a steep grade. Materials and tools were provided by NBU. Lunch and dinner were provided for the 61 volunteers present.







6-20-2015 Spanish Flats Spring Development - (2) two separate 7+ acre sites were to be fenced to keep cattle and horses off existing springs with water piped from the springs to (2) separate 1,000 gallon poly drinker tanks located outside the fence project. The upper 7 acres were fenced on 6-20 and 6-21, and the 2,000 gallons of drinking water outside the fence was filled the following week by natural flow. The upper project is complete with the exception of adding a gate for access. Camping location and access to the spring site were provided by the Winnemucca Ranch owners Todd Jaksick & Randy Venturacci, Randy also



provided a pair of backhoe and an operator. NDOW provided the materials which had to be trucked in and helicoptered to the sites at the 7200' elevation. NBU provided lunches and dinner for the 42 volunteers that attended.

On 7-11 and 7-12 we attempted to rally volunteers to work on the lower 7+ acre fencing project. 21 volunteers rallied over the weekend and 1/2 of the fence was installed and one cattle guard on the north end. This project will be revived again this fall or in the Spring of 2016. Lunch and dinner were provided by NBU.



*Editors note: what a great 2015 project season!*

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## THOUGHTS ON RETIRING BOARD MEMBER DAN PRICE

By NBU

Dan Price attended most all of the volunteer projects during his tenure on the NBU Board. He always brings an entire crew with him to guzzler projects. We can expect to see Dan, his daughter Natasha, and any number of friends and family participants. It is not uncommon to see an entire table of "Price Family" volunteers at the evening BBQ after the event.

Dan was present at Gold Ram BBQ's, set up our convention booths, and worked the annual banquet live auction expertly. Any task asked of Dan at the board level was accomplished well and on time.

Dan's generosity is astounding, donating not only his time and expertise but use of his Anchor Concrete equipment. We have seen his bobcat, mini-excavator, dump truck, jackhammers and trailers at project sites.

Dan is a tireless worker. He leads by example. He is the first to start working at a project and the last to quit. There is no such thing as stopping until the project is completely finished.

Dan's physical strength is legendary. At the Dry Falls guzzler project in April of 2010, we were asked to bring packs and pack frames to help haul out equipment from the site. This site was approximately a mile straight down a canyon from the nearest vehicle location. Of course, this meant that all equipment had to be hauled straight up the canyon trail after the project was finished. Dan strapped a Honda 3500 generator (131 pounds!) to his pack frame and hauled it up the canyon. This was done with ease for Dan, and observed in amazement by the rest of us.

It was an honor and a pleasure to serve on the NBU Board with such a dedicated and committed sportsman as Dan Price.

After 12 years, Danny Price has stepped down from the NBU Board of Directors. Danny has been a workhorse for the organization, being someone who is always there – especially when the going gets tough. He has rarely missed any of our field projects, generously donating excavators, bobcats, dump trucks and transports and always refusing reimbursement for these efforts. We will never forget the Homestake guzzler where he almost destroyed his truck towing a mini-excavator into the site; tires, a wheel, and an axle required replacement. OR at the Dry Falls Guzzler where he strapped our 3500 watt generator (150-200 lbs.) onto his back and marched out of that hell hole in the heat. OR when our crews were banging away at a bedrock ledge with an electric chipping-hammer, only to have Danny shoulder them aside and completely destroy the ledge with his 16 lb. sledge hammer. During banquet setup every year, he was always at the core of operations.

But even more endearing than his labor is his soft-spoken, easy-going nature, even in the face of adversity. Danny Price – a great director, and one hell of a good man.



**Thanks Danny Price for all of your years spent on the board and time spent to help Nevada's wildlife.**



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SNAKE BITE

By Terrence Melby and James R. Nelson, D.V.M.

For over 30 years, I have hunted with bird dogs.

Rattlesnake bites have always been a concern for dog owners, when one's dog is always off leash in the field, whether it be hunting, hiking, jogging or just hanging out.

I have been hunting, hiking or walking with my own labs for over 23 years and I have been fortunate not to have a snake bite experience.

This came to an end on Father's Day weekend this past June. Blazer, my 4 year old chocolate lab boy, got bit just above his left ankle, while my wife and I were returning from a hike to our home near Steamboat Ditch. This was not Blazer's first encounter with a rattlesnake; he went through rattlesnake training two summers ago and last year he walked up to a coiled rattlesnake on two separate occasions while hiking down a dirt road. Both snakes where large 30 plus inches, with a dozen plus buttons.



The first encounter was a good lesson of what not to play with, a strong "NO" with a reinforcement from his electronic collar.

The second encounter was similar, except Blazer bolted away from the snake before the lesson and reinforcement could be applied.

The third time was not so fortunate. As a rule of thumb, we always walk the dogs early in the morning — 6-7 o'clock when it is still a little cooler. The snakes are not moving around as much and are sluggish in the colder temperature. As the morning progresses, the snakes are looking for somewhere to sun themselves and get warm. I find that by 7:30 to 9:30, they are out basking in the sun trying to warm up.

Our walk with Blazer started a couple hours late, around 8 a.m., and we came off the mountain, behind our home, a little after 9 a.m.

Blazer was walking through the sagebrush 20 or so yards off the downhill side when he jumped back and ran down the hill. I recognized right away what had happened and saw a similar reaction to the summer before. I called him back and he was holding his left leg up.

Blazer walked the less than 60 yards back to the house with his left leg lifted. I checked for wounds or sore spots that bothered him and I found one drop of blood near his ankle, confirming my suspicion. Within an hour, we were at the emergency care having his leg looked at. Blazer spent the night getting Antivenin and hydration. The next series of pictures shows what occurred at the initial visit at Animal Emergency Center.

Over the next couple of days, Blazer's leg swelled up and turned black and blue. The skin was perspiring blood and we had to wipe the leg clean every twenty minute or so. The bleeding was a good sign that there was still circulation.

The snake venom is a cytotoxin which attacks living tissue; concerns



are how much dead skin or tissue there will be, or if the liver or kidneys will be damaged.

Situational awareness and watching your dog is critical. Dogs all react differently to a rattlesnake encounter based on their training. Your commands will have a direct impact on the dog's response. Your dog's awareness to snakes, and his training to snake aversions is valuable.

What do you do when your dog gets bit by a rattlesnake?

- Keep your dog immobile and calm. Carry your dog to the car. Limit your dog's movements, as it will limit the venom from moving around.
- Get your dog to a vet immediately. The faster your dog can get the anti-venom and other emergency services the better.
- The effects the bite has on the dog depends on many factors including where the bite occurred and how much toxin was released into the dog.

What should you do if you encounter a rattlesnake?

- Freeze when you encounter a rattlesnake.
- Find out where the snake is located — look carefully, is there only one snake?
- Slowly back away from the snake.

Remember, a snake's venom and bite are still something you need to worry about after the snake is dead.

Nevada is home to five snake species that can be dangerous to people and pets. They are all members of the Viperidae family, the pit vipers. They are the sidewinder, Mohave, speckled, western diamondback and Great Basin rattlesnakes. With the exception of juveniles, most rattlesnakes we encounter in Nevada are 1-1/2 to 4 feet long. It is very important to remember that rattlesnakes do not always rattle their tails in warning and a rattle does not always precede a strike! I discovered that the Western rattlesnake is represented in Northern Nevada by a sub-species known as the Great Basin rattlesnake and is the only rattlesnake to inhabit the Northern two- thirds of the State. This is important to know, as identification of the snake is important for use of anti-venom.



Additional Comments by James R. Nelson, D.V.M., Blazer's initial veterinarian

Rattlesnake bites are always a great topic of conversation among upland game hunters. In my busy emergency clinic I do see a number of sporting breeds suffer rattlesnake bites, but I also see an increasing number of household pets out on a walk with their owners bitten as well. I think this topic is important to any pet owner in the state. As Terry has outlined above, these bites can be very painful and on rare occasion fatal. The best prevention is not being struck, and the snake break training is indispensable here. Rattlesnake bites are tricky when it comes to treating them and there are some key factors to keep in mind.

Most snakes value their venom as you would currency. There is not an unlimited supply and it takes time for the snake to produce it. As such, they try to conserve their venom for food sources. When they bite a dog, they know they are not going to eat it, they just don't want to be eaten either. It is not uncommon for them to strike and push out very little or no venom. This is known as a "dry strike". They are simply warning the victim to stay away, or there will be consequences. It is estimated that between 20-30% of snake bites are dry strikes. The exception to this is young snakes that don't quite have the ability to conserve and are more likely to deliver a larger venom load. The next category is defensive strikes. The snake feels threatened and as a result will be more likely to deliver a dose of its venom into the recipient. Lastly there are agonal strikes. This occurs when the dog is biting back and trying to kill or does kill the snake. The snake is then fighting for its life and will most likely deliver multiple strikes with every available ounce of venom being delivered to the target.

Snake venom is a potent toxin to most mammals. There are typically several differing mechanisms depending on species of snake. Most are either neurotoxins, or hemotoxins. In Northern Nevada, the only venomous snake is the Great Basin Rattlesnake which is a hemotoxin, so we will focus on this. Not true in southern Nevada where the Green Mohave and sidewinders slither about, and are much more devastating snakes on the toxin scale. Hemotoxins exert their effect by disrupting the animals ability to stop hemorrhage - both by compromising clotting factors and platelet function. They also can cause significant damage to the kidneys. They are cytotoxic and have a local effect at the bite site causing surrounding tissue to die, creating nasty wounds. They cause severe swelling around the bite site that will gravitate down with time. Rattlesnake wounds are extremely painful.

Treating rattlesnake bites needs to be tailored to each individual based on many factors. Where on the dog the strike occurs, age of the snake, did the dog kill the snake, as well as any underlying health concerns in the patient. It is often impossible to know early, how the dog will respond based on the above factors. If a snake has recently fed, it may not have had time to fully reload the venom stocks, was it a dry strike, or was it a young snake that was having a bad day? Baseline treatment for snake bites includes pain medication, IV fluids and checking platelet numbers, clot times and kidney function. If the dog is showing abnormalities in any of these tests, or was struck in a bad place (the eye for example) we will recommend the use of antivenin. Antivenin can be used to counteract the effect of the venom, however antivenin is expensive so we try not to use it unless we feel it is indicated. Strike location also plays a role in using antivenin. Strikes to extremities, the eye, or through big vessels are more likely to be problematic, so we may need to use antivenin, but all strikes are different and not all require antivenin.

I also frequently have people ask me about the rattlesnake vaccine. I have not noticed any appreciable difference between vaccinated dogs and non-vaccinated dogs who were struck. I have also not seen any good scientific papers advocating the benefit. I have also seen some serious and even fatal side effects of the vaccine, so I am not advocating this as a preventative at this time. Truly, prevention is the best answer and I feel the snake break courses are effective, or keeping your dogs out of harms way is the best approach.

If you are unfortunate and your dog (who is now even more unfortunate) is struck by a rattlesnake, your best course of action is to seek immediate veterinary care. Try to minimize activity and take your pet to your vet. There is no field antidote that is worth the time. No over the counter medications, no tourniquets, no cutting and sucking and no electrical shock will be of benefit. I am always impressed by the reported home remedies that a friend advised to an owner that worked for them. I'm betting they had a dry strike if it worked.

As you can see, there are many variables associated with rattlesnake bites. Unfortunately, no easy answers. I will leave you with this. Please do not give your dog aspirin, ibuprofen or Tylenol. It might make the bleeding problem worse, and will inhibit your veterinarians ability to use more appropriate medications. All rattlesnake bites are different, but they all hurt and your pet deserves pain medication. Please see your veterinarian and discuss proper treatment options if you find yourself in this situation.

**Special Thank You goes out to the staff at Animal Emergency Center and James R. Nelson, D.V.M. and also to Silver Sage Vet Clinic, Larry Hatch, D.V.M. and staff.**



## NEVADA BIGHORNS UNLIMITED



### Nevada Bighorns Unlimited

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Over the last thirty-four years NBU has grown to become the largest grass roots 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 10,000 bighorn sheep within our borders. That is more bighorn sheep than any other state in the lower 48! NBU has been largely responsible for



Past NBU Director & Water Development Manager Mel Belding  
and NDOW Biologist Jason Salisbury

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.

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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.

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