

WYOMING OUTFITTERS & GUIDES ASSOCIATION

2019 HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBER AWARD

JOHN R. WINTER SPONSORED BY SCI FIRST FOR HUNTERS

AT THE AGE OF 12 YEARS and working as a horse wrangler for Bob Adams of Cody, I made the decision to become an outfitter. My Dad began guiding in 1946 and my upbringing certainly contributed to that decision.

I guided for different outfitters over the years whenever I could get time off from Range Conservation work and chasing wild horses for the BLM.

I received my first Outfitter License in 1981 and bought my first hunting camp in the Thorofare in 1982 from Tommy Thompson. I sold that camp after the fall of 1989 then bought the Two Ocean Pass camp in the Spring of 1990. We've owned permits on the Shoshone National Forest, Bridger Teton National Forest, Bureau of Land Management, Grand Teton National Park and Yellowstone National Park these past 38 plus years.

As with all outfitters, I think most of our memories come from our relationships with the summer guests and hunting clients over the many years.

I'm probably a bit different from most outfitters in that my fun seemed to begin after the kill. I tried to assist my guides and their hunters to retrieve their trophies as often as possible. I always figured that that was the least I could do for the many clients and

their hunt. I really enjoyed the many summer trips. We were really fortunate to see all the different country over the years, especially those summer trips from Jackson to Cody. As with all outfitters, good guides can either make or break you! A special thanks goes out to my guides and cooks over the many years. They were some of the best in the business and my utmost appreciation goes out to them. Keith Covington, since 1981, and Bernie Van



OverBeke since 1991 were with me the longest. My kids were a big part of our operation. We might have had only 2 or 3 guests but always 5 or 6 kids along for help. They learned to work and how to deal with strangers. My wife, Diane, kept things going on the home front and made sure the groceries were on the way. She was a great support and was a major reason

for the success of the whole operation.

Probably the most rewarding times were when I was deeply involved with the business of the Wyoming Outfitters Association (WOA) and then WYOGA. Working with all the Outfitters (Prairie and Mountain) to solve problems and issues of importance to the outfitting industry were so rewarding; mostly, because of the relationships I was able to develop with those other really active Outfitters; it was a great time to reflect on.

I was really fortunate to represent the Outfitters in Wyoming as the President of the Association for the years 1993 and 1994. I am very proud of that!

Luckily, after selling out this year, I was elected to the Wyoming State Legislature as representative for District 28 (Hot Springs County, and portions of Park, Big Horn, and Fremont Counties).

With your help, direction and support, I

hope to provide some relief from the out of control Grizzly Bear population and the non-native wolf invasion. Other predator problems in the State as well as the out of control Wild Horse population in the West are on my radar.

This award you have honored me with is so very special. Thanks again, it has been a great run.

John R Winter 🐾

