



BOARD of DIRECTORS

President

Sy Gilliland | Casper, WY

Vice President

Budd Betts | Dubois, WY

Secretary/Treasurer

Dusty Schell | Casper, WY

Board Members

Taylor Engum | Shoshoni, WY
Lee Livingston | Cody, WY
Carlton Loewer | Jackson, WY
Terry Pollard | Pinedale, WY
Carl Sauerwein | Cody, WY
Tyler Sims | McFadden, WY
Jeff Smith | Sundance, WY
Dustin Stetter | Dubois, WY
Brian Taylor | Kelly, WY

Board Members/ Guide Representatives

Mike Aberle | Sundance, WY
Dusty Schell | Casper, WY

WYOGA Lobbyist

Bill Novotny

Administrator

Laurie Marcovitz | Casper, WY

WYOMING OUTFITTERS & GUIDES ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 2650
159 N. Wolcott, Ste. 117
Casper, WY 82601
phone: 307.265.2376
email: wyoga@wyoga.org
website: www.wyoga.org



From the WYOGA President SY GILLILAND

Dear fellow hunters and outdoor enthusiasts:

As we near the end of our 2020 hunting season, WYOGA members are wrapping up their hunts, moving horses, tearing down camps and beginning to plan for 2021. The outfitting industry, like the rest of America, is looking forward to the end of 2020. In many ways the outfitting industry was lucky in comparison to others in regards to how our businesses came through this unusual year.

In addition to dealing with the fallout of a pandemic, Wyoming outfitters have many on going battles garnering our attention. Wolf management, grizzly bears, CWD, game management issues, non resident licensing and the elk feed grounds are at the forefront of those issues. We take a very active role with these politics and lobbying efforts. Without being able to hold our annual convention and auction, fund raising to help with these battles has become difficult. Along with the legal battles, outfitter's booking season will be faced with the cancellation of many major sport shows such as NRA Harrisburg, SCI, America Outdoors, Shot Show and NWTf. Without these face to face events, our members are turning toward new avenues to book future clients. We will also be dealing with the possibility that the Wyoming Legislature is considering convening in a virtual format. This would make in person lobbying impossible. All of these present huge challenges for our organization and our members.

In March of this year it was undeniable we were entering a very uncertain time. We elected to cancel the annual WYOGA convention. A painful decision for our board to make. Many of our members either cancelled or at the very least conducted a shortened season of their spring bear hunts, fishing trips or turkey hunts. Outfitters received calls from clients wanting to cancel hunts and in the same day were taking calls from hunters ready to book. The demand for Wyoming licenses actually went up and the majority of our members drew and booked full hunting camps.

The summer tourism season was just as uncertain. Many WYOGA members offer back country pack trips, trail rides or operate guest ranches. We found ourselves wishing we had a crystal ball to predict how the summer season would turn out. Wyoming's summer tourism season was shortened but July was a record setter with large numbers of summer tourists. When social distancing began to take its toll, Americans flocked to wilderness areas ready to experience more in the great outdoors. Outfitters who opened their summer businesses, ended up doing very well. Our national forests all saw record use and trail heads were packed with cars and campers. It was encouraging to see Americans rediscover this quality resource right in their very own back yard. Hopefully this trend will continue in the years to come.

What does 2021 hold for the Wyoming Outfitting industry? New Zealand, Africa, Europe and Canadian outfitters all suffered significantly, losing their 2020 season. Many of these outfitters are trying to reschedule and shuffle clients where they could while still trying to recoup the devastating financial losses from losing an entire years worth of income. Therefore, the demand for hunts across the west, including hunting in Wyoming, have increased. WYOGA members are reporting that early bookings for 2021 and 2022 have far exceeded their expectations. This bodes well for our members and the future of outfitting. If you're looking for a Wyoming hunt, my advice is to book early! We would love to have you come experience Wyoming's world class outdoor opportunities.

Sincerely,

Sy Gilliland, President

2019 STATISTICS

Total WY Outfitters: 316

Stats represent 2018 outfitted clients

Species	#of Clients	Successful	%
Deer	2441	2023	83%
Antelope	3132	2914	93%
Elk	2826	1850	65%
Black Bear	98	50	51%
Moose	47	45	96%
Sheep	89	68	76%
Mountain Goat	13	12	92%
Mountain Lion	91	67	74%
Wolf	18	1	6%
Total:	8755	7030	80%



Introduction from Author C.J. BOX

Dear fellow hunters and outdoor enthusiasts:

I've been writing about hunting, fishing, and outdoor pursuits in Wyoming since the publication of my first novel, *Open Season*, in 2000. To date, I've written and published twenty-one novels featuring Wyoming game warden Joe Pickett, several of which have debuted at #1 on the *New York Times* bestseller list. Over ten million copies have been sold and the books have been translated into twenty-seven languages. There will be an

announcement soon about a Joe Pickett television series, and I hope the people in charge of it celebrate hunting and fishing in Wyoming in the proper way – as I try to do.

It's an honor for me to have been asked to write this introduction on behalf of the Wyoming Outfitters and Guides Association. My experience with many of the outfitters in this publication has been professional, dedicated, and stellar. They not only contribute millions to Wyoming's economy but they're our best ambassadors when it comes to demonstrating the right way to experience and enjoy the very special natural resources of our state.

For many residents in Wyoming, hunting is more than an activity or diversion: it's a way of life. Hunting trips for small and big game are a family tradition, and there are still many towns where residents greet each other in the fall by asking, "Did you get your elk yet?" Wyomingites are fierce about maintaining the health and welfare of their herds as well as filling their freezers for the winter. Nutritious and natural protein from wild game is the ultimate in locally sourced food.

Management of the incredible wildlife resources in Wyoming are largely paid for by non-resident hunters and anglers through licenses and the purchase of outdoor gear and products.

Visitors should enhance their hunting experience and increase their opportunity to have a successful experience by contracting with a certified outfitter or guide from the Wyoming Outfitters and Guides Association (WYOGA). In addition to a worthwhile hunting trip, many guides and outfitters offer fishing excursions, horse-pack trips, back-country wilderness adventures, and accommodations. Even non-hunters can see wildlife in its natural state and experience Wyoming's breath-taking scenery and wild spirit by hiring these local experts.

You won't go wrong by hiring the professionals of WYOGA for your outdoor pursuits in Wyoming.

Sincerely,
C.J. Box



For General & Advertising Info,
please contact:
Laurie Marcovitz, Administrator

Publication Design:
Mark Schuler/ProDesign

Printing:
Publication Printers Corp

Cover Photo:
Adobe Stock 198837151
sbthegreenman