

WYOMING OUTFITTERS & GUIDES ASSOCIATION

2021 AGENCY PERSONNEL AWARD

David Rael SPONSORED BY **SCI**
FIRST FOR HUNTERS

BIG GAME HUNTING

THE PASSION for sharing time in the great outdoors near his home in Cowley and a respect for conservation through hunting led Wyoming businessman and philanthropist David Rael to a 6-year stint as regional commissioner serving on the governing body of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. Yet, it was his honest, level-handed approach to decision making processes that helped propel him into the leadership of the Game and Fish Commission.

Rael served through a difficult time, helping lead the group through a minefield of state and federal regulation and litigation and, at times, unsettled public support. Consensus is a hard fought battle in management of habitat and wildlife. Rael drew on his experience in construction, agriculture, oil and gas and business management in his efforts on the Commission. He is also active in the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

His lifelong passion to introduce hunting and conservation to new sportspeople – especially youth – combined with networking skills learned through building a successful business, were the



driving force behind his popularity. While leaders can sometimes be viewed as the opposition, Rael's unyielding love for all things outdoors and his gregarious nature made him extremely reachable to all looking for answers.

Hoping to help foster a better relationship between the Game and Fish and the general public, Rael developed a “meet and greet” format during Commission meetings around the state. To help encourage attendance, Rael called on business partners and reached into his own pocket to donate hundreds of lifetime small game and fishing licenses to future Wyoming sportsmen and women.

The first event was such a success, the Commission adopted it as a template for future

meetings. His generosity didn't stop there. Rael also donated hunting experiences to young hunters. Park County Commissioner and WYOGA board member Lee Livingston pointed to Rael's commitment to inspiring young hunters as integral to the state's heritage. “He understands that kids are our future,” Livingston said.

His door-is-always-open policy didn't start at the Commission. As the founder and president of S&L Industrial, success was born through hard work and

building trust with clients. Trust is quickly earned because Rael finds joy through the success and achievements of his employees and clients.

He surrounds himself with talent instead of simply looking for people willing to agree – his wife Jennie included. The two have formed a team that are pillars in many Wyoming communities. And yet they always have the time to help neighbors or show kindness to those in need.

Despite being born in California, Jennie said Wyoming is David's “true home.”

“[He's] proud of Wyoming and loves to share its beauty and breathtaking adventures with family and friends,” she said. 🦌