

**For Release: July 29, 2020 or later**

**Press Release: What Happens When the One-Shot Antelope Hunt is Cancelled?**

**City: Lander, WY**

This week it was announced the One-Shot Antelope Hunt is cancelled this year due to the COVID 19 pandemic. Many readers understand the far-reaching consequences of this cancellation and many do not.

As the Executive Director of both Water for Wildlife ® Foundation and the One-Shot Past Shooters Club, I would like to let the Lander community know about the One-Shot Antelope Hunt. In order to fully understand the long reaching benefits, it is necessary to understand the three organizations that make up the historical One-Shot Antelope Hunt.

### **1) One Shot Hunt Club-established 1940**

This local organization is composed of all volunteers from the community of Lander. They are your neighbors, fellow business owners, teachers, friends, fellow sportsmen and many other contributors to the Lander community. They work many years as setup crew, greeters, guides, range crew and you name it. Important to note is that most of them have **never** participated on a team, in fact some are not even hunters. All their efforts are done in support of what has been a Lander tradition, celebration and huge economic boom for so many years. This group also selects the new hunt teams each year and offers hunter safety classes yearly free of charge. The event is locally sourced from Lander businesses. If it does not occur, the following businesses will feel the loss- Wyoming Catholic College where all catering is done, the Lander Community Center where events are held, Western Printing where all printing is sources, every single hotel which is normally completely booked, the off duty police officers and medics who make extra money by providing security, the seamstress who makes extra money by sewing patches, the restaurant owners whose restaurants are full, the shop owners who have great sales, the local outdoor companies where ammunition is purchased, the trophy and engraving business and the embroidery business where all awards are purchased, the local taxidermist and meat processors, and many more. Lastly, the Hunt Club receives 80 legislatively set aside licenses. Jason Hunter, Regional Wildlife Supervisor for Wyoming Game and Fish of the Lander office states, “these 80 licenses are not out of the general draw quota and DO NOT affect the draw odds for the areas hunted.” Many sportsmen realize that this event increases the chance of a draw because of the investment these organizations put into wildlife conservation projects, thus increasing the population and strength of the herds.

## **2) Past Shooters Club-established 1955**

Once one has competed in the hunt, they become a Past Shooter and can return annually. Through the years, many people of notoriety have come to the Lander area who may not have otherwise come to our state. A few include Roy Rogers, Chuck Yeager, General Norman Schwarzkopf, Charlie Daniels, Larry Csonka and many more. Yes, some participants are wealthy, but many are fire fighters, Purple Heart recipients, journalist, wildlife agents and generally working people such as myself and you. All are generous supporters of wildlife conservation and the Lander community. This club's purpose is to support the One-Shot Hunt Club and Water for Wildlife Foundation. Many past shooters return yearly to renew old friendships, develop new ones and enjoy the One-Shot Antelope Hunt activities. Many hunters donate their meat to the local food bank to support the needy. Some of these members enjoy the community so much that they have purchased residences here.

## **3) Water for Wildlife® Foundation-established 1975**

This non-profit has been **almost solely supported** by the Past Shooters Club and Hunt Club through the years. Demand for the quality wildlife conservation work, internships and community support has grown exponentially. All total, WFW and its' over 50 conservation partners (including RMEF, Muley Fanatics, Ducks and Trout Unlimited, Wyoming Game and Fish, BLM, and many more) have completed \$17 million in wildlife conservation projects through the years. When the hunt does not happen, wildlife conservation is affected. The support does not stop there, the hunt provides community support in the form of scholarships to 4 Fremont County college bound students yearly and \$100,000 in stipends for an internship for college students aspiring to work in wildlife conservation. Historically these organizations have helped fund local improvement projects such as the re-building of the Lander Community Center (\$150,000), the Popo Agie Middle Fork improvements, ATLAS Popo Agie Gold and many others.

Lastly, these three organizations employ two local full-time equivalent employees and maintain a wildlife museum open to the public and free of charge. The museum is also open to other conservation organizations for meetings, programs, etc., free of charge. Wyoming community projects such as Wyoming Outdoor Weekend, Camp Bighorn, etc., are also supported by the three organizations. For all these reasons and many more, we hope you will support this great event and the 3 organizations which make it up. Important to note is that all 3 evenings of the One Shot Hunt banquets are open to the public with a ticket purchase and the One Shot Hunt Club

membership is open to all like-minded sportsmen. The Water for Wildlife Foundation will have an Open House tomorrow 11:00 am-4:00 pm. I encourage everyone to come and see what we are all about.

**For more information contact:**


Vickie Hutchinson

307-332-6862

[vickie@waterforwildlife.com](mailto:vickie@waterforwildlife.com)

**For more information on Water for Wildlife® Foundation go to**

[www.waterforwildlife.org](http://www.waterforwildlife.org)

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