



January 4, 2021

Wyoming Game & Fish Commission  
5400 Bishop Blvd.  
Cheyenne, WY 82006

**Re: OPPOSE recommendation to not issue tags to Lander One Shot Antelope Hunt**

Dear President Dube, Vice President Crank, and Honorable Commissioners:

We write today to respectfully oppose, especially in this extremely challenging economic environment, the recommendation not to issue the annual allotment of 80 tags to the Lander One Shot Antelope Hunt.

Each year during the third week of September, several hundred visitors travel to Fremont County to participate in the iconic One Shot. Established in 1940, the Hunt has been a major event in Lander for almost 80 years and is a major economic boost to the local economy, second only to our famous Independence Day/4<sup>th</sup> of July Pioneer Days Rodeo and Parade.

On average, each attendee spends at least \$3,000 per person/couple, meaning the 80-tag allocation brings to our community a minimum of \$240,000 each year. Hunt Field, Lander's general aviation airport, is abuzz with flights, our hotels and motels are full, our restaurants and caterers are busy, and our stores are selling goods and providing services; even the local seamstress and real estate brokers are in demand. The fees for the multi-day rental of the Lander Community & Convention Center all go to the City for operations and maintenance.

In addition to the significant positive economic impact the Hunt has on Lander and Fremont County, the One Shot Past Shooters Club and Water for Wildlife Foundation contribute regularly to the community by supporting local projects such as the remodeling of the old and the construction (with a direct donation of \$150,000) of the new Community & Convention Center. They have opened a new museum on Main Street that supports wildlife conservation and education, and have funded \$2.3 million in wildlife habitat projects, \$1.1 million going to projects in Wyoming. The people who participate in the Hunt and visit the area are not only avid sportsmen and women — avid promoters of Lander, Fremont County/Wind River Country, and Wyoming — they are also true conservationists.

The 56 or so licenses utilized by the Hunt Club to draw Past Shooters and their guests back to Lander significantly contribute to the ongoing vitality of all three organizations. The Past Shooters provide connections and opportunity to draw high profile participants who, in addition to promoting the Hunt and

Lander, provide ongoing financial support to Water for Wildlife, sponsor local Hunter Safety programs, fund the One Shot and Water for Wildlife Museum, and subsidize the Wyoming Game & Fish Intern program. The Club/Water for Wildlife and the WG&F are a wonderful example of how public/private partnerships can work.

We the undersigned encourage the Wyoming Game & Fish Commission to support the intent of the Wyoming State Legislature to issue 80 licenses annually to the Lander One Shot Antelope Hunt Club. Reducing the number of licenses issued to the Hunt Club will negatively affect the economic impact on Lander and Fremont County, aid in the elimination of an iconic Wyoming event, and reduce the financial support for wildlife conservation.

Thank you sincerely for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



Owen M. Sweeney, Jr.  
Executive Director, Lander Chamber of Commerce

**Monte Richardson**, Mayor of Lander  
**Cade Maestas**, President, Lander City Council  
**Richard Gard**, Mayor of Riverton  
**Mike Anderson**, Mayor of Hudson  
**Travis Becker**, Fremont County Commission  
**Larry Allen**, Fremont County Commission  
**Clarence Thomas**, Fremont County Commission  
**Mike Jones**, Fremont County Commission  
**Jennifer McCarty**, Fremont County Commission  
**Jim Anderson**, Fremont County Treasurer  
**Ryan Lee**, Fremont County Sheriff  
**Tara Berg**, Fremont County Assessor  
**Gary Michaud**, Administrator, Fremont County Association of Governments  
**Lloyd Larsen**, Wyoming House of Representatives

**Ember Oakley**, Wyoming House of Representatives  
**Jim Allen** (Ret.), Wyoming House of Representatives; Former Chair, House Committee on Travel, Recreation, Wildlife & Cultural Resources  
**Eli Bebout** (Ret.), Wyoming Senate  
**Charles Piette**, Lander Valley Sportsmen's Association  
**Mary Joyner Greene**, Lander Community Foundation  
**Carl Asbell**, Water for Wildlife Foundation  
**Tim Gist**, Pres., Water for Wildlife Foundation  
**Darin Hubble**, President, One Shot Hunt Club  
**Vickie Hutchinson**, Executive Director, Water for Wildlife Foundation and One Shot Past Shooters