

## Attention Sheep Hunters!

### ***Baja Sur and Tiburon Island Desert Sheep Permits on Auction at Wild Sheep Foundation (WSF) Chapters!***

The Wild Sheep Foundation has made five (5) Desert Bighorn Sheep tags available on auction at WSF/FNAWS Chapter Banquets in 2011. We will offer two (2) Tiburon Island permits and three (3) Baja Sur El Vizcaino Biosphere permits at chapter auctions for the November 2011 through March 2012 Mexican desert bighorn season. These permits are in addition to the thirty three (33) permits we will offer on auction during the February 9-12, 2011 Wild Sheep Foundation Convention and Sporting Expo "***The Sheep Show™***" held in Reno, Nevada. Last year WSF raised and put on the ground to conservation and mission programs more than \$2.85 million! Much of the funds raised were from special permits. You can review all permits including streaming video of many of them as well as the entire 2011 *Sheep Show* Auction Catalog online at [www.wildsheepfoundation.org](http://www.wildsheepfoundation.org).

#### **WSF/FNAWS Chapters Banquets and Auctions.**

For Auction, phone bidding or additional information please contact the following:

**Iowa FNAWS Chapter** (Baja Biosphere) Auction Date: January 22, 2011  
Spirit Lake, IA  
Contact: Ted Schutte at 712-754-3729 or email on [tschutte@hickorytech.net](mailto:tschutte@hickorytech.net)

**Eastern Chapter WSF** (Baja Biosphere) Auction Date: February 19, 2011  
Hunt Valley, MD  
Contact: Rick Booth 717-629-4167 or email on [1sbooth@comcast.net](mailto:1sbooth@comcast.net) or visit their website at [www.ecfnaws.org](http://www.ecfnaws.org).

**Washington WSF** (Tiburon) Auction Date: February 19, 2011  
Bellevue, WA  
Contact Glen Landrus at 208-305-4187 or email on [ramslam@hotmail.com](mailto:ramslam@hotmail.com) or visit their website at [www.wafnaws.org](http://www.wafnaws.org)

**Oregon FNAWS** (Baja Biosphere) Auction Date: April 9, 2011  
Warm Springs, OR  
Contact Mike Boethin at (541)480-6203 or email on [mikebo@bendbroadband.com](mailto:mikebo@bendbroadband.com) or visit their website at [www.oregonfnaws.org](http://www.oregonfnaws.org)

**California WSF** (Tiburon) Auction Date: April 30, 2011  
Sacramento, CA  
Contact Adam Casagrande at 925-984-4538 or email on [cafnaws@gmail.com](mailto:cafnaws@gmail.com) or visit their website at [www.cafnaws.org](http://www.cafnaws.org)



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307-527-6261 phone 307-527-7117 fax



**Permit for one Desert bighorn sheep and outfitted 10-day hunt for one hunter and one non-hunting companion Baja Sur El Vizcaino Biosphere Reserve, Baja California Sur, Mexico**

The Wild Sheep Foundation has once again been authorized to auction five bighorn sheep permits for the 2011/12 hunting season. Since this program began in 1998, all but one hunter has harvested their sheep on this hunt. The highest winning auction bidder will have first choice of hunt dates. This hunt is a fully outfitted 10-day package for one hunter and one non hunter. Additional non-hunters may accompany for \$100/day/person. The hunt will take place in the Ejido Alfredo V. Bonfil, located inside the "Vizcaino Biosphere Reserve," in Baja California Sur, Mexico.

**Wild Sheep Foundation  
720 Allen Avenue  
Cody, WY 82414  
Contact: Gray Thornton  
307-527-6261**



***Importing your Desert Bighorn Trophy from Mexico  
Into the USA – A MUST READ for Permit Buyers!***

Hunting in Mexico can be the culmination of a lifetime of hunting. In some cases, it includes taking a desert bighorn sheep to complete your collection of North American wild sheep. Of course, after taking your trophy, you still need to get it back into the United States. The following information is provided to help you complete this portion of your hunt.

The Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) regulates the global trade in endangered species of animals and plants, and items made from them, through a permit system. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is the first line of defense in the battle to conserve endangered species in many countries. USFWS Wildlife Inspectors take their charge very seriously.

The paperwork required to import your trophy is the responsibility of YOU, the hunter. While some of the forms will be provided to you by your outfitter, it is YOUR responsibility to ensure that they are accurate and complete.

To import the trophy into the US, you need the following documents from the Outfitter:

- 1) A CITES Permit. Make a copy to keep while in Mexico because the USFWS will keep the original once you return to the US. This form (some of it in Spanish) will list your name, where you will hunt, your CITES Permit number, a valid until date, and permission to export/import one specimen of "Borrego Cimarron - *Ovis canadensis*."
- 2) A copy of the Hunt Contract. This document lists your name, the name of the wildlife "breeder," where you will enter Mexico, the dates of your hunt/season, and the species which you will hunt. The USFWS will review this contract, but usually not keep it.
- 3) A PROFEPA (this is the Mexican equivalent to the USFWS) export form.
- 4) Your sheep tag. This item changes with time. Currently, in Baja California, a paper tag is attached to the horns and a copy is provided to the hunter. In Sonora, a plastic tag is passed through the eye hole.

YOU will need to provide a USFWS Form 3-177 (Declaration for Import or Export of Fish or Wildlife). The Mexicans DO NOT provide this form and the USFWS Inspectors like you to already have it when they meet you. You must put the CITES number on the form, the hunter's

name and address, and the name and address of the exporter/breeder/outfitter (the name of the Ejido or the Outfitter). The USFWS may keep one of these forms. Print out two of them from the USFWS website before you leave for Mexico. After the USFWS Inspector signs and stamps these forms, keep one for your records. Form 3-177 (and the IMPORTANT instructions) can be downloaded from the USFWS website (<http://permits.fws.gov>). Before printing, fill in some of the required areas (your name, address, etc...) with your computer keyboard before leaving for your trip. Also take the instructions with you to Mexico as there will be more to fill in later.

Yet another Government Agency with which you must deal is the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), specifically the Veterinary Services National Center for Import and Export. This is the agency tasked with preventing wildlife diseases from entering the United States. Before leaving for your hunt, you should call the USDA (301-734-3277 or 512-383-2400) to ensure that you have all of the proper documentation for the importation of your trophy, and for the most current regulations and restrictions to importation of hides and horns/skulls.

New regulations for the importation of fresh (green) hides and skulls/horns from Mexico require verification, by US Customs and Border Protection, that they are:

- 1) Free of live and dead ticks (hides/capes) with skull and horns THOROUGHLY cleaned/dry/salted with no meat/tissue or moisture visible.
- 2) Accompanied by an official certificate from a Mexican Government Veterinarian stating the hides have been treated with an acaricide OR
- 3) Accompanied by a self-made certificate/document issued by the importer (you or your broker/expeditor) or shipper attesting to the fact that the hide was frozen solid for 24 hours. However, the hide needs to be in a condition (thawed) to allow inspection for ticks at US Customs AND
- 4) After the hide is frozen for at least 24 hours, then it should be thawed for inspection and thoroughly salted a few times until it is starting to dry. The skull and horns should be thoroughly cleaned. You or your guide/outfitter should thoroughly scrape and salt the skull so that no meat, sinew, or moisture are visible anywhere. These processes can be performed by your outfitter but YOU must make sure to supervise. It will be your problem if the hide was not frozen solid for 24 hours or if the horns/skulls are not clean and dry.
- 5) If you are unable to freeze the hide, you can skip the freezing of the hide ONLY if you have enough time to salt and re-salt the hide to the point that it becomes "hard-dried" or "flint-dried". This would mean it is no longer wet and it has become stiff on the flesh side from drying/salting. It should be semi-stiff (kind of like a piece of thin cardboard). This can take a few days time to accomplish but often you will have time while waiting

for transport to the nearest town and the time needed for changing flights, etc... Once hard-dried from several saltings, the hide does not need to be refrigerated or frozen because the salt brine has preserved it for the time being. However, get it to your taxidermist as soon as you get home.

There are various ways to bring your trophy into the United States. You can:

- 1) Rely on your US guide/outfitter (if accompanied by one to Mexico) to do it **with** you. If you don't trust your guide/outfitter to properly handle your trophy and paperwork, then you shouldn't be using that guide/outfitter. **PLEASE NOTE: If you do not accompany your US Guide/Outfitter he MUST have a USFWS Import/Export License noted in 3) below to import your trophy.** If you **and** the outfitter are not personally importing the trophy, you should select a USDA approved taxidermist prior to your hunt and discuss your plans for your trophy with this taxidermist. Have the taxidermist contact your outfitter prior to your hunt to discuss shipment methods, brokers, expeditors, permit requirements, and time frames. Give the outfitter your necessary CITES documents needed to import in this fashion. The trophy will go directly to the taxidermist.
- 2) Use the services of a broker. The role of a shipping broker is to act as a liaison between you and customs to ensure legal transfer. The drawback to this is that you must keep contact with your broker, which can be difficult to do, even with satellite phones. Before you return to the states, you must over-night your documents (CITES permit) to your broker. When you and your trophy arrive at your designated port of entry, your broker will escort your trophy through customs with said documents. Once past customs, you are free to send your trophy to the USDA approved taxidermist of your choice. The importer must have a USFWS Import/Export License acquired through Form 3-200-3.
- 3) Another option is to retain the service of an Expediter. WSF members have used Juan Gonzalez of Sasabe Hunting & Trophy Logistics [www.sasabehunt.com](http://www.sasabehunt.com) or email at [juan@sasabehunt.com](mailto:juan@sasabehunt.com) with excellent results. For a reasonable fee, Juan can export your trophy after your departure from Mexico. He must have all the required documents listed above prior to your departure.
- 4) The final and best option is for YOU to accompany your properly frozen, then salted/dried, documented trophy through customs, USF&S and home. This may require you to stay a day or two in MX after the hunt to get everything in order. Make sure you have all the above listed documents and rules with you. Another consideration is that many flights back to the United States arrive after the closing time of the USFWS Office at or near the airport. Take a satellite phone – they can be rented. You should call the USFWS Office at the CITES approved port of entry at least 48 hours prior to your arrival time to schedule a USFWS Inspector to meet you at US Customs at the airport. After-

hour arrivals will include an overtime fee in addition to the regular inspection fee. The designated port base inspection fee is currently \$89. Overtime and premium inspections fees will be added but are not a significant cost. Cash is not accepted – you must bring a personal check. Always try to deal with USFWS Inspectors and meet them at US Customs as they are familiar with the pertinent rules and regulations. Sometimes they may be unable to meet you and will advise you to give the original CITES Permit and USFWS Form 3-177 to US Customs in their absence. Dealing with US Customs officials ONLY is more difficult as they typically are not familiar with this process. Keeping your cool and having a copy of the USFWS and USDA rules from the agency websites to show U.S. Customs Officers are HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. As stated earlier, you will leave the CITES Permit and Form 3-177 with them for the USFWS but should retain a copy for your records.

It is always better to discuss issues with the USFWS before problems arise. Wildlife Inspector William Myers (520-287-4633), in Nogales, is a fountain of information about wildlife importation procedures.

Currently the approved ports of entry for CITES animals from Mexico (with prior notification) are Brownsville TX; El Paso TX; Laredo TX; San Diego CA; Nogales, AZ; Lukeville via Nogales; Calexico via San Diego; Los Angeles (Torrance), CA at LAX; and Dallas/Fort Worth.

This information is provided to help you. But remember, rules and regulations change frequently so don't rely on the WSF, or your outfitter to know if regulations have changed. Just as you prepared for your hunt of a lifetime, you should also prepare the paperwork to ensure the seamless importation of your trophy. It is ultimately your responsibility and that is how the USFWS and USDA view it too.

Wild Sheep Foundation  
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**Mexican Trophy Importation Resource  
USDA Approved**

ATTN: WSF Tiburon, Carmen Island and Baja Permit Buyers

Juan Gonzalez  
Sasabe Hunting & Trophy Logistics  
441 N Grand Ave, Suite 4  
Nogales AZ 85621

[juan@sasabehunt.com](mailto:juan@sasabehunt.com)

[www.sasabehunt.com](http://www.sasabehunt.com)

Juan provides a full import and export service for \$595 per trophy (excluding FedEx and S&H fees.) For more information visit [www.sasabehunt.com](http://www.sasabehunt.com)



**Declaration of Frozen Cape/Hide  
for USDA**

I \_\_\_\_\_ swear, declare and attest that the cape and/or full skin of my desert bighorn sheep has been frozen for at least 24 hours prior to thawing, salting and drying for import and inspection by USF&WS, Customs or USDA officials at the Port of Entry.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date