

For Immediate Release:

Wyoming Women's Foundation Media Contact:

Rebekah Smith | Office: 307.721.8300 | rebekah@wycf.org

Laramie, Wyo. – Recognizing the hunters for their achievements, Ashlee Lundvall, a former Ms. Wheelchair USA and a special guest hunter at the 2014 hunt, helped hand out the awards during a ceremony at the fifth annual Wyoming Women's Antelope Hunt.

The hunt was held Oct. 12-15, 2017 at the Ranch at Ucross in northeastern Wyoming. In 2013, the Wyoming Women's Foundation created the event to promote camaraderie and mentorship through hunting, as well as raising funds for grants and special projects to help women and girls across the state. This year's hunt resulted in 38 of 44 hunters harvesting antelope. Next year's event is slated for Oct. 11-14, 2017.

Cynthia Cloud, Wyoming's State Auditor, was a special guest at the 2017 hunt. Courtney Nicholson, Senior Writer and Producer at the Sportsman Channel, was a media guest, created a video and did an Instagram takeover of the Wyoming Women's Foundation's account at the 2017 hunt.

2017 AWARDS

Working with the prestigious Boone and Crockett Club, the Wyoming Women's Antelope Hunt has structured its awards to adhere to the core principles of conservation and hunting ethics. This year's award recipients are below.

ANNIE OAKLEY AWARD

The Annie Oakley Award was presented to hunters who harvested their pronghorn by firing only one shot during the two-day hunt. Award winners were:

- Karen Ayers (Houston, TX)
- Lynne Boomgaarden (Cheyenne, WY)
- Laurie DeVries (Atascadero, CA)
- Leah Ehret (Elgin, MN)
- Roxanne Garaventa (Cheyenne, WY)
- Cassidy Groeper (Laura, IL)
- Shelby Hatch (Destin, FL)
- Tana Hoffman (Alpine, WY)
- Havelly Holt (Douglas, WY)
- Marilyn Kite (Laramie, WY)
- Johanna Neilson (Council, ID)
- Stephanie Pearsall (Oswayo, PA)
- Peggy Rice (Cheyenne, WY)
- Danielle Sanville (Southampton, MA)
- Karey Stebner (Rawlins, WY)
- Jana Waller (Missoula, MT)

ROMAN GODDESS OF THE HUNT AWARD

The Roman Goddess of the Hunt Award was presented to first-time big game hunters who harvested an antelope. Roman Goddess Award winners:

- Karen Ayers (Houston, TX)
- Cynthia Cloud (Cheyenne, WY)
- Becky Cooper (Sheridan, WY)
- Laurie DeVries (Atascadero, CA)
- Sarah Hamlin (Lander, WY)
- Tana Hoffman (Alpine, WY)
- Havelly Holt (Douglas, WY)
- Megan Jacob (Cary, NC)
- Nichole Jagers (Houston, TX)
- Danielle Pilkinton (Houston, TX)

FOUNDERS' CUP AWARD

The Founders' Cup Award goes to our corporate sponsor team with the closest average shot distance; all team members must harvest. It is named for the hunt founders, Marilyn Kite, Donna Wichers and Lynne Boomgaarden, and was presented by Marilyn Kite. The award is sponsored in part by Twin M Designs, which is co-owned by one of the hunt's guides, Matt Moran. The cup is passed from one team to the next each year. Individuals on the team receive commemorative leather clutches handmade by Moran, who is a leather craftsman based in Sheridan.

The winner of the 2017 Founders' Cup is BP Lower 48 with an average shot distance of 127.6. The team's hunters were:

- Karen Ayers (Houston, TX)
- Mona Dunegan (Hesperus, CO)
- Nichole Jagers (Houston, TX)
- Danielle Pilkinton (Houston, TX)
- Brittany Smith (Oklahoma City, OK)

SUPER STALKER AWARD

The Super Stalker Award goes to the individual closest to her antelope when making the kill shot. This award was sponsored by Maven Outdoor Equipment and Michael Day Photography. The 2017 Super Stalker was:

- Karey Stebner (Rawling, WY) with a shot distance of 40 yards
- Her guide was Fritz Bates (Clearmont, WY)

ROOSEVELT AWARD

The hunt's Roosevelt Award is named after Theodore Roosevelt, U.S. president, conservation champion and co-founder of the Boone & Crockett Club, which sponsors the award. This award celebrates the type of personal character Teddy Roosevelt held in highest regard – an adventurous spirit, determination, self-reliance, and the need to give back more than what is taken – all of which he believed defined what was inside every true sportsman and sportswoman. Voted on by the guides, this award is given to the participant that had the fortitude to keep trying and hung tough, win lose or draw. Roosevelt Award winner:

- Laurie DeVries (Atascadero, CA)

CANTELOPE AWARD

This award was not part of the original set of awards created with Boone & Crockett's partnership. It is an informal award created in 2015 that goes to the hunter who keeps her sense-of-humor about her throughout the hunt even though she doesn't harvest an animal. In 2015, hunter Danise Edmonds (Katy, TX) hunted hard for two days, but in the end, she did get close enough to take a shot. Recognizing the spirit of the hunt did not depend on getting an antelope, but in enjoying the experience, Danise asked her guide to stop at the grocery store before returning to the ranch. She went inside and returned with a cantaloupe, saying with a grin that she got her (c)antelope. She attached her carcass tag to it and a set of make-shift horns imagined from the weathered trunk of a sage brush. The 2017 Cantelope Award was presented to Deb Gentry (Buffalo, WY), who cheerfully stated when telling her hunting story that, "At least I got really good at loading and unloading my gun!"