From Big Horn Night to 65 Years of Outdoor Tradition: The Big Horn Show Celebrates a Milestone

What began with big game trophies and a gathering of local sportsmen has grown into one of the Inland Northwest's most enduring outdoor events.

Spokane, WA

In 1959, members of the Inland Empire Big Game Council organized a gathering to share their hunting trophies and stories. They expected 25 to 30 people. Nearly 150 showed up.

That unexpected turnout sparked a tradition that would eventually grow into one of the Inland Northwest's most recognizable outdoor events. By 1960, Big Horn Night was inviting the public to join the celebration. From a small auditorium on East Sprague Avenue to the sprawling Spokane County Fair & Expo Center, the Big Horn Show has spent generations bringing people together through their love of the outdoors.

In 2027, the **Big Horn Outdoor Adventure Show celebrates its 65th show**, marking a remarkable legacy of outdoor adventure, sportsmanship, and community. Hosted by the Inland Northwest Wildlife Council (INWC), the four-day event returns to the Spokane County Fair & Expo Center, bringing together outdoor enthusiasts, families, industry experts, and businesses from across the region and beyond.

A Tradition Built on Stories, Sportsmanship, and Community

The earliest Big Horn gatherings reflected a time when hunting trophies represented far more than an animal on the wall. Each carried a story of adventure, patience, perseverance, and the experiences shared along the way. Big Horn Night gave sportsmen a place to celebrate those experiences together.

The gathering quickly outgrew its humble beginnings. By 1965, approximately 250 hunters were attending, with some 75 trophies on display. Just two years later, Big Horn Night had evolved into the Big Horn Sportsman's Show at the Spokane Interstate Fairgrounds, featuring 36 exhibits and drawing more than 1,500 visitors.

Over the decades, that spirit of camaraderie grew into something much larger. What began as an evening focused on big game became a multi-day outdoor show featuring hunting, fishing, outdoor recreation, wildlife education, and hands-on experiences for the entire family.

"Sixty-five shows is a remarkable milestone, especially when you consider how much has changed since those early Big Horn gatherings," says Melannie Jones, Executive Director of the Inland Northwest Wildlife Council. "The equipment has evolved, the show has grown, and the outdoor community has welcomed new generations. Yet the stories, friendships, and traditions that brought people together in the beginning are still very much a part of what makes this show special."

Celebrating the Past, Inspiring the Next Generation

The 2027 anniversary show will bring together longtime favorites and opportunities to discover something new. Visitors can explore outdoor equipment, connect with outfitters and industry professionals, and learn from experienced speakers through seminars and live demonstrations covering everything from hunting and fishing techniques to wildlife conservation and outdoor skills.

Family-friendly attractions, including Fishing World and supervised shooting sports activities, continue to give young visitors opportunities to experience the excitement of the outdoors firsthand.

For many families, attending the Big Horn Show has become a tradition of its own. Grandparents who once walked the show aisles as children now return with grandchildren, passing along knowledge, enthusiasm, and a connection to the natural world.

More Than a Show, a Legacy of Conservation

While the Big Horn Show has grown considerably from its early beginnings, its purpose extends well beyond four days of entertainment. As the primary fundraising event for the Inland Northwest Wildlife Council, the show supports the organization's work to protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitat, promote responsible sportsmanship, provide outdoor education, and preserve opportunities for future generations.

The show is powered by dedicated volunteers, many of whom return year after year, making it a unique community-driven event with a lasting impact throughout the Inland Northwest.

"There's something fitting about an event that began with people sharing their outdoor experiences now helping ensure future generations have opportunities to create stories of their own," adds Jones. "That's a legacy worth celebrating."

The 65th Big Horn Outdoor Adventure Show will take place March 18th – 21st at the Spokane County Fair & Expo Center.

For event updates, tickets, exhibitor information, and anniversary announcements, visit **www.bighornshow.com**.

Event Details

- **Event:** 65th Big Horn Outdoor Adventure Show
- **Dates:** March 18th – 21st, 2027
- **Location:** Spokane County Fair & Expo Center, Spokane, Washington
- **Information:** www.bighornshow.com
- **Hosted by:** Inland Northwest Wildlife Council