



# EPIC OUTDOORS<sup>®</sup>

WESTERN HUNTING MAGAZINE

**Arizona**

ELK & ANTELOPE

**Wyoming**

SHEEP, MOOSE, GOAT, ELK, & BISON

**Wolf Hunting**

**Application Strategies**

**VOL 4 • ISSUE 1 • JAN 2019**





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**Bob Smith** | Yukon Stone Outfitter







# APPLICATION TIME

—BY JASON CARTER



LEFT: JASON CARTER WITH HIS SON COLTON  
ON COLTON'S WYOMING ELK HUNT

ABOVE: SHAUN AND COLTON CARTER

**Boom! We're walking into January and the application season like it's our job!**

Hunting and applying across the west, for big game tags, is our job and passion. We feel very fortunate to be able to make our passion our livelihood. We eat, drink, breathe, and live for hunting western big game. It consumes all of us here at Epic Outdoors and as we talk to serious hunters, like yourselves, about your hunts this past year, research the states and learn about new changes that the game and fish agencies are making, we continue to be able to produce the most up to date and informative western publication available. As you will see when you turn the pages of this magazine, we


cover information on nearly all the Arizona elk and antelope application options and give you our perspective on what to apply for and why, as well as a detailed analysis of the recent history within those options. We also cover Wyoming's sheep, goat, moose, elk, and bison hunts.

Avid hunters and outfitters across the state of Arizona all stated that, "It's never been worse than it was this past year." It was so dry that many springs, tanks, and other water sources that rarely dry up were dry this year and the feed conditions were as poor, in most places across the state, as they ever have been. In turn, antler growth for elk was severely compromised

and known bulls lost as much as 40 inches in overall score, from 2017. The antelope bucks didn't seem to be affected, in regards to quality, as much as elk, but there were less top end bucks than there has been the previous couple of years. Having said that, one of the major changes for 2019, in Arizona, is that the tag quotas for antelope in some of the better units have been slashed, due to significant population reductions, that were drought related. There are a few new elk hunt options to apply for this year, which are outlined later in this issue, in the Arizona elk section.

A significant change in Wyoming, that may change the species you





apply for, is the fact that they are adding a nonrefundable 2.5% surcharge, to all applications filed with the state. Applicants must front the tag fees when applying in Wyoming, and if you're a nonresident, the 2.5% will add up very quickly. When combined with the point fees, it becomes one of the most expensive states to apply for.

On a positive note, another change is that there are 3 new sheep units that are available to nonresidents this year! Units 6, 20, and 24 are open to nonresidents, in addition to the units that were available last year. This should help spread out the nonresident applicants a bit. Another major change is the addition of Mountain goat opportunity hunts that are designated Type A hunts. These hunts are designed to harvest goats in the areas they are offered, with the long-term goal of total extermination of goats in those areas. Nonresidents should avoid applying for these type A goat hunts, never-the-less, they will create more goat opportunities in Wyoming.

The drought was also felt by hunters in Wyoming, but the larger issue for the lack of success on trophy elk was the warm, dry weather in most of the state. This kept elk from migrating out of Yellowstone National Park, into surrounding units, during the prescribed seasons, which limited the success of hunters across the state, in general. It was a tough year for elk, on the heels of one of the best years Wyoming hunters have ever experienced, which was 2017.

The bison hunters, this past year, had an extremely tough season as well, due to the dry conditions. As I write this, bison herds are holding tight just inside Yellowstone, resulting in a low harvest rate. We will cover Arizona's sheep, deer, and bison at a later date, as well as the deer and antelope application information for Wyoming.

This past year, my son, Colton drew a tag in the Bighorns of northcentral Wyoming. We couldn't get out to hunt much, due to his school schedule, except for an extended weekend one week after the hunt had started. He and I, along with my other son, Shaun had a great

trip. It wasn't an easy hunt due, in part, to a couple hundred hunters having hunted a week prior to when we got there. As with any hunt, the more aggressive you get, the better the chance at success and lucky for me, my kids were willing to get aggressive and were up for the challenge. What a great experience it turned out to be and well worth the 6 preference points he had!

We are excited to have 2018 behind us and look forward to what the 2019 hunting season will bring! We experienced a drought across the west that was as severe and wide spread as any that we've experienced in recent history. States like Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah were hit very hard with extremely dry winter and spring moisture conditions which, in turn, wreaked havoc on antler growth. I can't remember a year that was worse when it comes to the number of trophy animals harvested. Even states like Idaho and Wyoming were dry and had extreme winter kill for deer and, in some cases, antelope in recent years. Trophy Mule deer were nearly non-existent across the entire west this year. There were a few great bucks harvested, as there always is, but on average, it was tough. On the bright side, we rarely ever see two back to back years that produce poor trophy quality. We are amped up more than ever to apply and draw tags!

As we start this application season, I want to be sure that you are aware of the variety of services we provide to help you achieve your hunting goals. In addition to providing personal, over the phone consultation, we can also help you book a hunt, find an outfitter, choose application units, or even complete your applications for you.

We publish podcasts and YouTube episodes to provide additional tips and tactics for hunting the west, as well as share our personal hunting experiences. It's a great way to keep up-to-date on new products, western state information that supplements our magazine, and listen to hunting stories that may give you a few ideas for your own personal hunts. Good luck in the draws and call or email us with any questions you may have!





# 2019 IS HERE!

—BY ADAM BRONSON



**Running a customer service based business like Epic Outdoors, always requires us to be thinking of ways to improve the quality of what we provide, evolve with the demands of our members, and add value to what we offer.** This is where our development of the Epic Hunt Planner came from. Although much of what we provide through a research hunting magazine and personal consultation with the most experienced hunt consultants in the industry, can only be done in print or over conversations on the phone, there is much more these days that can be offered digitally, online, to help hunters plan and research their hunts.

Jason and I often talk of the days when we would have to beg fish and game agencies for an email or even a fax of their new regulations, prior year drawing odds, new fee structures, or other data that we'd need to compile information on hunting the west.

We would send chocolates or flowers for these key game and fish employees letting them know how appreciative we were of them getting to us what we valued as gold! The websites of game and fish agencies didn't have readily available data with the click of a mouse, such as drawing odds, harvest rates, species management plans, e-regs, or mapping tools. But man how that's changed with the digital age. Now there are easy means for electronically disseminating these types of information. These readily available forms of data have also increased the ability for hunters to "cyber-scout" and research units prior to applying and after drawing tags.

When we first started Epic Outdoors, we had plans for more than just a magazine and personal service. It's now time to unveil our newest significant member benefit which has taken considerable time and energy to develop. We are committed to making the investment required to add the Epic Hunt Planner feature in the Members Only section of our website. This new tool allows members to easily research hunts by state, species, or specific units and find new opportunities.

Initially, this includes features such as state draw breakdowns, drawing odds for all western states, the ability to customize bonus point queries, as well as digital mapping features. The mapping feature will include numerous layers such as land ownership, topo versus satellite imagery, game distribution, terrain types, migration corridors and much more. All of this is aimed at breaking down a unit of interest through a variety of criteria.

In essence, the Epic Hunt Planner resources are a way we can add even more value to our membership and provide you a place to use additional tools as you research the west. There is only so much information you can print on our monthly state-by-state magazines, the Epic Hunt Planner allows us to increase the amount of information you can analyze when making decisions on when and where to hunt. The best part about it is we're adding more to your membership for the same \$100 price!

The Epic Hunt Planner will evolve in the coming months and years as our ideas come to life and our members





TO ACCESS THE EPIC HUNT PLANNER, GO TO EPICOUTDOORS.COM AND LOGIN

provide us valuable feedback as to what more you'd like to see and use. We welcome member feedback, so let us know your thoughts on how to make it evolve into an even better research tool. We wouldn't be investing the time and effort into this project if we didn't want it to be great. We look forward to unveiling more and more tools in the future, which will allow you to get even more out of your membership with Epic Outdoors.

As the new application season kicks off, we're full of

anticipation as we consider the tags and hunts we want to acquire in 2019. If you need a few ideas on how to plan your personal application strategy, look at Jason and I's application strategy articles in this magazine. Everyone's application and hunting plans are different, but we encourage you to make a plan and be consistent in applying in the states that make sense for your goals. We wish you all a happy New Year, we're fired up for what 2019 will bring!





# JANUARY 2019

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Vortex Cover Winner...  
Anthony Spiegelberg gets  
a pair of Vortex 18x56  
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# TENTATIVE EPIC OUTDOORS SCHEDULE FOR 2019

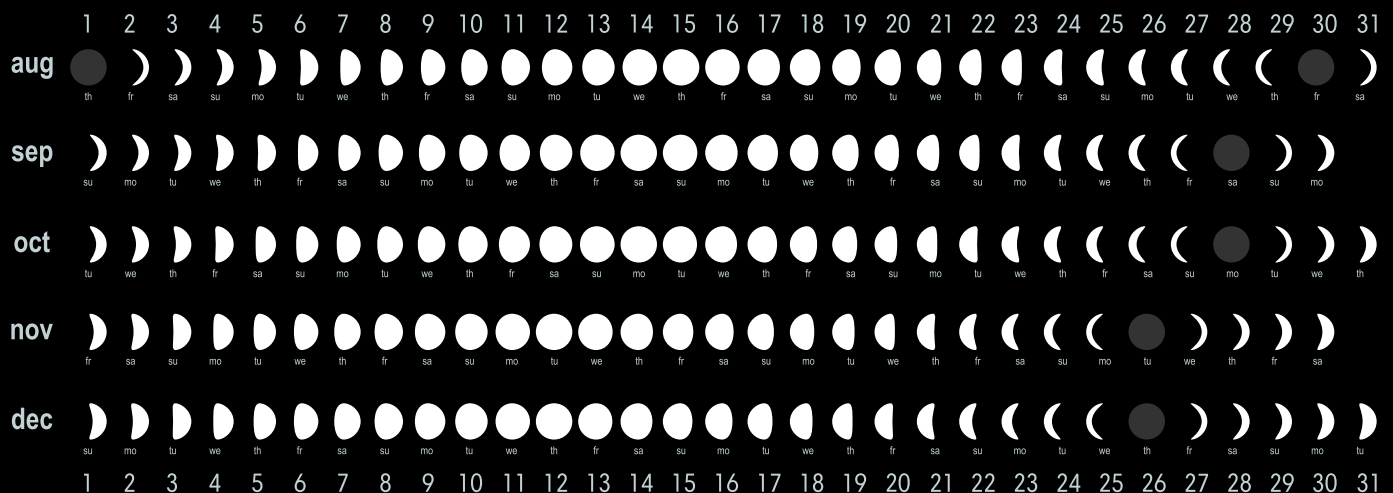
This is our TENTATIVE schedule for the upcoming year. Be sure to check the respective issues of *Epic Outdoors* to see exact deadlines when they become available.

State	Website	Month Covered in Epic Outdoors Magazine	Nonresident Application Deadlines by Month	Drawing Month
Alaska	adfg.alaska.gov	December (S)	Dec 17, 2018	February
Arizona	azgfd.gov	January (E,A) June (S,D,B)	Feb 12 (E,A) Mid June (S,D,B) Mid October (2nd Bison)	Early March Late July Mid November
California	dfg.ca.gov	June	Early June	Mid June
Colorado	cpw.state.co.us	March	Early April	Early May (S,G) Early June (M,D,E,A)
Idaho	fishandgame.idaho.gov	March (S,M,G) May (D,E,A)	Late April (S,M,G) Early June (D,E,A)	Late May Late June
Iowa	iowadnr.gov	May	Early June	Mid July
Kansas	ksoutdoors.com	April	Late April	Early-Mid June
Montana	fwp.mt.gov	March (D,E) April (M,S,G,A,B)	Mid March (D,E) Early May (S,M,G) Early June (A) July 1-Sept 30 Points Only	Mid April Late June Mid July
Nevada	ndow.org	April	April	Late May
New Mexico	wildlife.state.nm.us	February	March 20	April 24
Oregon	dfw.state.or.us	February	May 15	June 20
Utah	wildlife.utah.gov	February	Early March	Mid May
Washington	wdfw.wa.gov	May	Mid May	Late June
Wyoming	wgfd.wyo.gov	January (E,M,S,G,B) May (D,A)	Jan 31 (E) Feb 28 (S,G,M,B) Late May (D,A) July 1-Oct 31 Points Only	Feb 21 May 9 Late June

Key: A=Antelope, B=Bison, D=Deer, E=Elk, G=Goat, M=Moose, S=Sheep

**Disclaimer:** This information is TENTATIVE and should be used as general reference only. Information and changes will be updated in each issue of *Epic Outdoors*, make sure you are using the most recent information. Refer to the official 2019 hunting regulations when available for more detailed information.

## 2019 FALL MOON PHASES





# THE CUSTOM **LONG RANGE RIFLE** **WE TRUST**



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—Adam and Aaron Bronson, Bronson Outfitting



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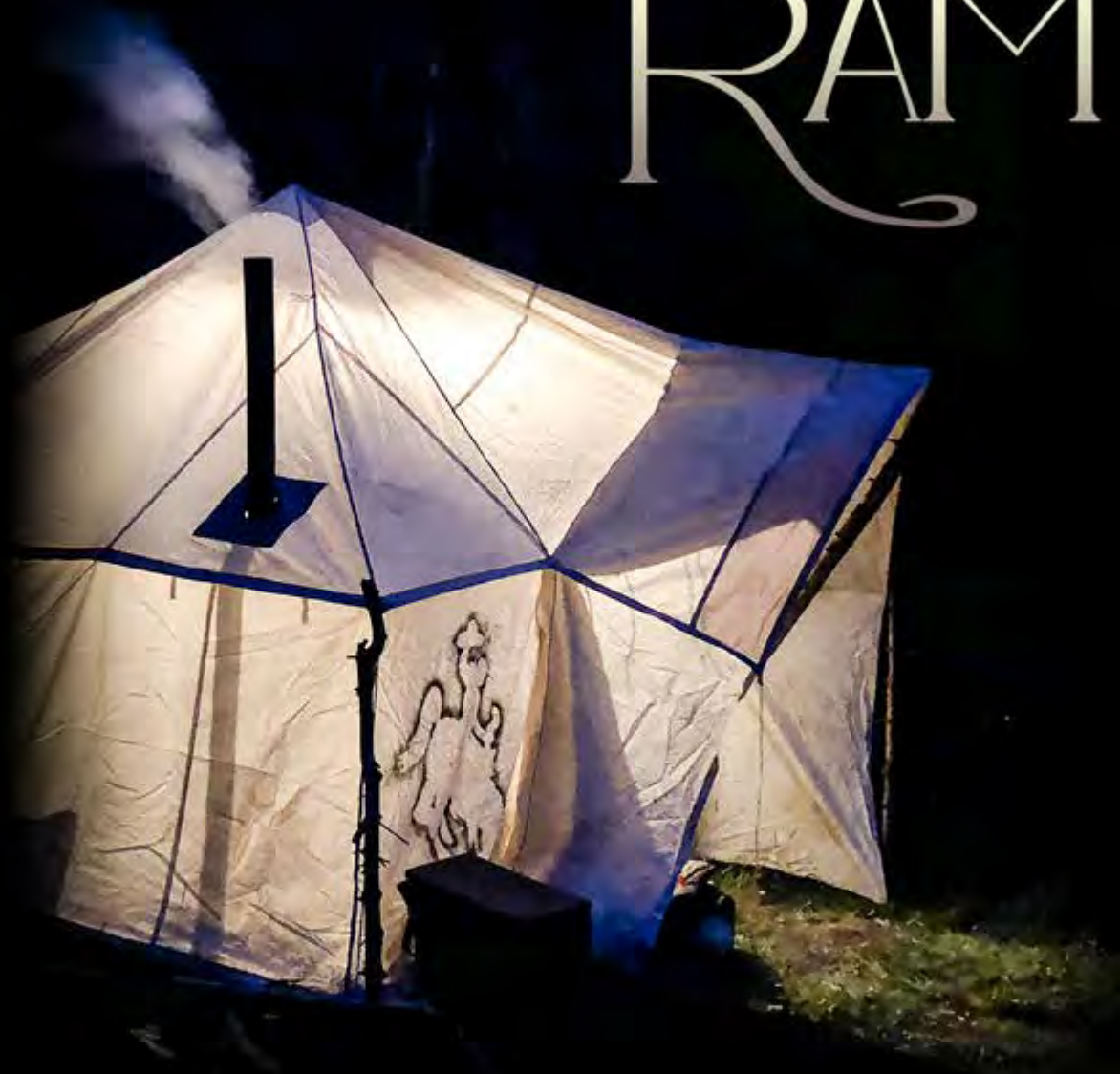




# DOUBLE REILLY

ANTHONY SPIEGELBERG • 183" BIGHORN SHEEP • WYOMING

# RAM



**For those of us who look forward to the annual sheep and moose draw in Wyoming each year, the draw date is always marked on our calendar—May 10th this year.** As we left Sheridan for a trip to Laramie for our daughter's graduation from U.W., I asked my wife to pull up the Wyoming Game and Fish site and check the draw results while I was driving. I really expected to draw a moose tag, as I had 23 points.

Jean reported the disappointing news that I was "unsuccessful," but my spirits recovered quickly when she confirmed I had drawn a bighorn sheep tag! I knew I was close, but I had expected I would need to wait

another year for an Area 3 tag where I wanted to draw. Little did Jean know how much "sheep talk" she would hear over the next four months!

By the time we made it thirty miles down the road to Buffalo, my mind was already working on a plan! I knew I wanted an experienced guide, and I knew just the person. When I called John Reilly a few minutes later, he was in Florida working on a project. I had known John for nearly twenty years, had hunted elk with him once many years ago, and I had heard many stories about great adventures some of my friends had been on chasing a Wyoming ram with him. I had also spoken with Corey





Fisher from Crandall Creek Outfitters a couple years ago about different areas, and as it turned out John had been guiding for Crandall Creek for several years. Perfect!

John agreed to guide me, and he and Corey quickly talked and reserved a camp area with the forest service. John was excited to report a day later that we had secured his first choice area.

By the time late July rolled around, I had already spent many early mornings at the local gun range working to pick my rifle and get comfortable with longer distances again. For the past fifteen years, most of my hunting had been archery, so I had some training to do. I also had the advantage of living in the same community as John, and he spent several evenings with me, at a local ranch, shooting up to 650 yards. I was sure the horseback riding would be tough, so John took me on a pretty tough trail ride in the local Bighorns. I knew he was checking out my ability to ride and hike, and I was hoping to pass the test. I must have done ok, as at the end of the day he asked if I wanted to make a scouting trip the next weekend to where he planned to hunt.

After a four hour drive and a five hour horseback ride, we set up our small scouting camp. The ride was beautiful,

but took some work to clear downed timber along the trail. I took this as a great sign—nobody else had been in there to clear the trail. This hunt was in a Wilderness area, so no chainsaws. We took turns on the five foot bucksaw John had packed, which at 8,000 feet was great training. This was some really remote country, and we didn't see anyone else in our hunting area during the scouting trip, or during my hunt a month later. Our scouting the first night didn't reveal any sheep, but we saw some nice bull elk in velvet and a sow Grizzly bear and her cub about a quarter mile away. The next morning we found what we were looking for, late in the morning. Near the top of a snow covered ridge, seven rams were enjoying the green grass sprouting from just below the snowfield. We were convinced we had found a good ram to hunt, although the rams were nearly a mile away. Great optics are a must!

I met John and his son Devan a month later, in Cody, to start our hunt, and after picking up some additional horses from Corey, six horses and two mules were packed and on the trail. After a challenging but otherwise uneventful ride in, we had our wall-tent and camp set up near the area we'd scouted a month earlier. Our camp was comfortable, close to a small stream, and felt as secure as you can, in Grizzly bear country, thanks





to a small electric fence John brought in. We rode to a high lookout point early the next morning (the day before opening day.) The scenery was spectacular as we looked toward the high country of Yellowstone and the Absaroka Range. Several hours of glassing revealed just a few ewes and lambs, but then around two in the afternoon fourteen rams walked out in a clearing one-half mile below us! While a good distance away, it took just a couple minutes to pick out our ram—he simply dwarfed the others. After watching a big male Grizzly push up through the same clearing a little while later, we backed out and headed back to camp with great hopes for the next day.

The next day, after nearly five hours of glassing and seeing many ewes, lambs, and small rams, our big ram was nowhere to be found. Perhaps the bear had scattered them to another drainage. Then around 1:30 the timber line below us came alive with the fourteen rams we had seen the day before! John made a plan to drop down the ridge below us to get closer for a shot. Before we left, he told me to take everything I might need to spend the night away from camp, as we might not be back. John gave Devan some trail instructions on where to meet us the next day if we didn't come back to the horses, and shortly thereafter we were scrambling down the ridge via a thin strip of timber. Thirty minutes later as we sat in some timber across a big draw from the

rams, John said, "He's 534 yards and we can't get any closer. You need to take the shot."

I had practiced for this, but was sure hoping for a closer shot. When I pulled the trigger I must have leaned down on the rifle a little, and I shot right over the ram's shoulder. The rams scattered, and John let me sulk for a few minutes about what had just happened, and then said, "Gather up your gear, I think I might know where they're headed. We're going to kill that ram!"

We spent a couple hours scrambling up and down the track we thought the rams had taken, then spotted one of the young rams across a small canyon about 300 yards away. After watching them work in and out of some tight openings between timber on the hillside, we confirmed it was our band of rams. Several monkey rolls over brush and rocks later, to get in position to make a shot, the beautiful dark colored ram we had nicknamed "Chocolate" stood broadside in a clearing. I turned off the safety, and put the crosshair on his chest. Just then I realized that while "Chocolate" would be a beautiful trophy, we would be really disappointed to give up on what we thought was a spectacular ram. A few minutes later the big ram stood, quartering away on the hill. It seemed like before John could say, "Yes that's him," I pulled the trigger on the old 300 Win Mag that an outfitter friend of mine had sold me a few years earlier.





This beat up old gun had taken dozens of animals, and now it could stake claim to a great Wyoming ram!

It took us nearly an hour to get to the ram, but when we did, we found a spectacular animal waiting! No ground shrink disappointment here, and even bigger than we thought—the adventure continues—after taking pictures, caping the hide and skull, and boning the meat, it was nearly dark. We talked about our options and both agreed that spending the night in the best cover we

could find was our only real choice. Not more than fifty yards from where the ram died, we found a small rock overhang, scraped some dirt away to create a flatter area, and rounded up some firewood. While there was not much of what you would describe as real sleep during the next ten hours, it was a great experience. The fire was warm, the weather favorable, and the stars brilliant. Oh, and we had the company of a beautiful ram!

We headed out just after daylight toward an area we





hoped Devan might see us. The going was steep and slow. John took the largest pack which had to weigh over 80 lbs., and together we kick-stepped down and up the quarter mile to where we thought Devan might be. With trail directions only experienced horseman like Devan and John could share, I'll be damned if he didn't show up within one hundred yards of where we planned to meet, with three horses in tow! There were three big smiles flashing on our faces on the long ride out the next day.

Our eleven year old ram officially scored 183 5/8 B&C, and as best I can tell is tied for the 15th largest B&C ram taken by a hunter, in Wyoming, dating back to the late 1800's. This is not the same ram we saw on our scouting trip, so I'm sure there is another great trophy out there. I am so grateful for the time I spent with John and Devan on this trip, and will enjoy sharing this amazing ram with many friends for years to come.



# Want a successful hunt? Take the right tent!



Hilleberg offers over 35 models of three- and all-season tents, and all are well suited to the adventurous backcountry hunter. The four-person Saitaris shown here is both incredibly spacious and able to handle any kind of weather, so is perfect on any hunt where it's not about IF you'll get snowed in, but WHEN, and for how long.

Seacat Creative

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# JASON'S 2019 APPLICATION STRATEGY

BY JASON CARTER

## JASON CARTER'S APPLICATION STRATEGY FOR 2019

**Everyone who applies in the west for big game tags has or should have an application strategy to make the most of the cost and time of applying, over literally decades of filing applications. Each and every year I alter my application strategy a bit, depending on the tags and hunts I had the previous year. I encourage you to review the states that you have been applying for in the past and log your preference/bonus points, in a program such as Excel, so you can visually see what your options are when you are researching and contemplating what to do from year to year. If you don't have any points, then it's time to get a strategy and build points!**

Every one of us will have different strategies when it comes to applying across the west. We are all different and have different hunts and species that appeal to us. There is not necessarily a right or wrong answer when it comes to applying. However, I do field many phone calls from hunters that are nervous about drawing too many tags. That is a natural concern, but when the odds of drawing are tough, you can't worry about drawing too many tags. If you are applying for easy to draw tags, then it could and should be a concern as you could likely end up eating tags that you may not have time to utilize. I have eaten a few easy to draw tags here and there that I didn't have time to use, but in my mind, they were my "fall back" tags, in the event I didn't have anything else going on. I consider it the price of doing business, so to

speak, just to make sure I had hunts to go on. I like to have a few fall back options every year.

For 2019, my application strategy will be a bit different than it was in 2018. In 2018, I really concentrated on obtaining tags for my kids while applying for my personal tags as well. It was a delicate balancing act to keep everyone in tags and bullets and have a few great tags for my personal hunts as well. For myself, I really concentrate on Mule deer and elk from year to year, while applying for sheep, goat, moose, and antelope where it makes sense. I try to get sheep tags every single year no matter what my schedule looks like. The drawing odds are terrible, at best, for sheep tags across the west; so, I apply in the draws and never apply for points only or sit out a year. You need to be in the draw every year to have a chance to draw a few coveted tags like that in your lifetime.



JASON WITH A MULE DEER HE KILLED IN NEVADA

Every one of us is different in many ways. We all have different aspirations and goals when it comes to hunting. Nobody will have the same strategy or hunting goals that I have. Those are unique to us individually. Some guys just want to put meat in the freezer and harvest cow elk or doe antelope. They may be willing to shoot any sheep they see including ewes. The species maybe their goal or just simply to have tags in their pocket. That is their prerogative, there may not be a need to have a real, in-depth, application strategy for those type of goals. However, if you are the type of guy that wants to have a few quality tags that have a legitimate chance at a trophy animal and have a few general or easier to draw tags along the way, then you need to put some thought into your plan and develop a strategy. That is what we can help you with.





CARL ACKERMAN, 182" NEVADA DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP  
GUIDED BY JASON CARTER AND ADAM BRONSON

The objective behind this article is to give you some ideas for your personal goals and help those who read this make sure you are where you need to be in your own strategies. Just make sure you don't get into a rut and are willing to be flexible. My strategy isn't totally set in stone and is somewhat fluid from year to year, depending on how I feel and what my schedule looks like. There are species and hunts that I apply for every single year. As I've already said, I apply for sheep in nearly every western state they exist in. I also apply for trophy elk and/or deer tags across the west, however, my unit selection may vary a bit each year, depending on what's available. It's our job to stay on top of the best hunts to apply for across the west for all big game species and to help you strategize and apply for hunts!

### STRATEGY OVERVIEW

Species such as Desert Bighorn sheep, Rocky Mountain Bighorn sheep, Shiras moose, Mountain goat, and bison generally take years to draw, so we think of them as a long-term plan. In most states, it is statistically possible to draw these tags the first year you apply and some members of Epic Outdoors have, but in the states that have a bonus point system, the odds of drawing a tag get better with every year you apply. Those are the applications that you don't think about or plan for them too much, unless you have 20+ bonus points and even if you do it's tough to draw.

Sometimes you do get very lucky in the draws. I drew a once-in-a-lifetime bison tag in Utah when I was a kid on one of the first years I could apply. Years ago, I beat the odds and drew a Oregon California Bighorn sheep tag. You just never know when your luck will shine through,

but you can't draw if you don't apply. Make sure your name is in as many hats as possible. In many states, it costs the same to apply for units for these species as it does to apply for "points only" for that same species. Even though applying for points only is better than not applying at all, you need to have your name in the draw, as many years of your life as you can, and in as many states as you can afford to apply in so that you can actually have a chance to draw a tag as many times as possible. For the once-in-a-lifetime tags, it only makes sense to apply for points only if you absolutely would not be able to utilize the tag, if drawn. There are many more options for deer, elk, and antelope across the west and most hunters will or are willing to hunt those species multiple times and maybe even a couple times per year.

### APPLYING FOR SHEEP

Sheep tags are like gold! Sheep tags generally take dozens of years of applying to get lucky and draw a tag. I've drawn 3 sheep tags, two of which were Desert sheep tags and one California sheep tag. We knew I had enough points in Utah to get drawn in the unit I drew, since the point system in Utah is designed to give applicants with the highest number of points a percentage of the tags. The Oregon sheep tag was randomly drawn out of hundreds of applicants as they do not have a point system for sheep. I also drew a Desert sheep tag in Arizona, after building points for 20 years. The odds of drawing in Arizona were terrible, but someone has to draw. If your name is at least in the hat, you have a chance. These once-in-a-lifetime tags have all afforded me experiences of a lifetime that will never be forgotten.

I am usually applying for quality Rocky Mountain Bighorn



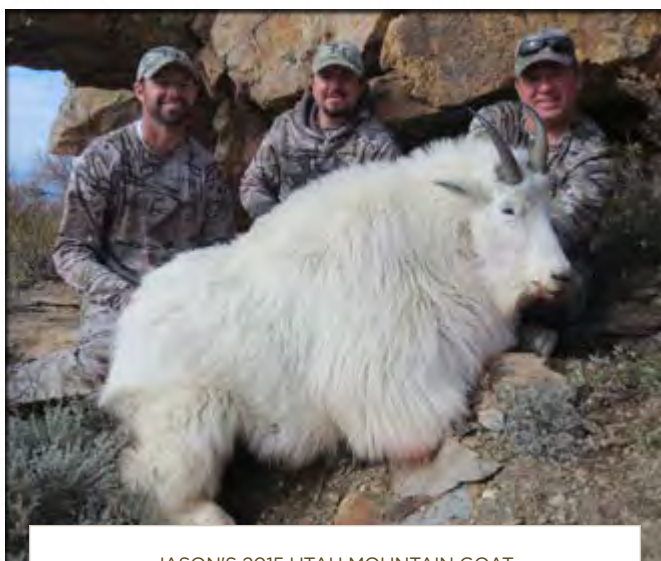
sheep tags as well. From now on, I will be applying for Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep tags in Arizona. They have some incredible Rocky's and I am not able to apply for Desert sheep anymore. I will be able to gain points for sheep again and start off this next application season with 2 bonus points in Arizona (which are the hunter education points as well as the loyalty bonus point.)

In Colorado, I apply for the Rocky Mountain sheep tags since you can't apply for both species in the same year and they have a weighted bonus point system for Rocky's and do not offer a point system for Desert sheep. I figure that my odds of drawing a tag are better for Rocky's than Desert sheep in Colorado.

In Idaho, I apply for sheep when I have plenty going on for deer and elk, since you have to choose between deer and elk or sheep, moose or goat. Changing your mind from year to year in Idaho is ok since there is not point system in place.

I have 18 bonus points in Montana, so maybe someday soon, I'll get lucky and draw a sheep tag there. Montana is one of the few states that offer a legitimate chance at harvesting a 180"+ ram in multiple units.

In Nevada, I also apply for what I think are the better Desert sheep and California Bighorn sheep units (since I've killed both species). Nevada will probably be my last chance at a trophy Desert sheep and California bighorn sheep tag, so I'll go for broke on them. A little side note and one thing we've talked about for years and now truly believe, that should be taken into consideration is that many different units can have trophy rams and what you see on checkout summaries isn't truly as indicative of the quality in a particular unit as it may be a function of what the lucky tag holders are willing to hold out for or how much time they can dedicate to the hunt.



JASON'S 2015 UTAH MOUNTAIN GOAT

New Mexico's sheep tag price is \$3,173 and they make you pay for it at the time you apply. This helps weed out hundreds of potential applicants, but there are only about 3 nonresident tags for each species, for the entire state. Therefore, the odds of drawing will never be good. There are some great rams there, but the odds of drawing are astronomical, and they do not have a point system. I usually apply in New Mexico for sheep, but I don't feel bad if I miss a year and sometimes a zero percent credit card is nice when laying out over six grand for Ibex, Oryx, and sheep applications.

In Utah, nonresidents can apply for every species available every year and should! It's very inexpensive to apply for big game tags in Utah. The drawing odds are tough, in even the easier to draw units, but considering the application cost, it's worth it in my opinion. Residents can only apply for one of the once-in-a-lifetime species and one of the limited draws for the regular species of deer, elk, or antelope. Because I have harvested a bison, Desert sheep, and Mountain Goat in Utah, I now apply for a Rocky Mountain Bighorn sheep tag.

Wyoming has a random draw for sheep and depending on the year, I apply for a unit that offers a draw tag in the random draw, but with the new fee structure, I may reconsider that application. I don't have the maximum number of sheep points, so if I ever draw, it will be on a random draw tag.

States that I don't apply for sheep in are California and Washington. I don't apply for California because of the application cost and the astronomical odds of drawing a tag. I don't apply in Washington due to the odds of a nonresident drawing a tag versus the expense to apply. I personally don't apply for sheep in Oregon because I already drew a tag. In Idaho, depending on the year, I may apply for elk and deer and by doing so, I am not allowed to apply for sheep.

### MOUNTAIN GOAT

I killed a Mountain goat in my home state of Utah in 2015, which has pretty much satisfied my hunger to kill one. I continue to apply in Colorado since I have been building points for years there and they offer some great hunts! I have also been applying for Wyoming over the years; Wyoming doesn't have a point system for Mountain goats and the odds of drawing a random tag are relatively good. I usually add goat in Nevada when it's offered to nonresidents since it's cheap to add and they have some big goats. I don't apply for goat in Montana, Oregon, or Washington; although, if you need a goat, Montana would be a great choice.

### SHIRAS MOOSE

Good states in which to apply for moose are Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, and Utah. Washington always produces a few great bulls, but the odds of drawing



are terrible. Colorado has some great bulls as well, but nonresidents are limited to just a few units, compared to the hunt options that residents have. I have applied in Colorado in the past and have gained points for them over the years. I got lucky and drew a tag in Idaho a few years back and as such, Shiras moose aren't high on my list anymore. Personally, I don't apply for Montana, Wyoming, or Utah for various reasons. Wyoming has very few moose tags that are issued on a random draw and are expensive to apply for. I can only apply for 1 of the once-in-a-lifetime species in Utah and so I apply for sheep instead of moose and I just haven't ever been interested in hunting moose in Montana. If they were a priority for me then I would apply in these states as well.

### ELK

I've been lucky and harvested several bulls over 380" and a few others over 350" in states like New Mexico, Utah, and Arizona. Great elk tags are extremely sought after and are tough to draw, or even buy, for that matter. I'd really like to kill a 400" typical 6-point bull, but beggars can't choose, so how about just any bull over 400"? You've got to hunt where they make them and apply for tags that give you that opportunity. Big bulls are something I can't get enough of, but I haven't made them the priority in my life like I have Mule deer.

Having said that, I will always apply in Arizona, Nevada, and New Mexico for great archery hunts. These states offer some amazing archery hunting opportunities. I've drawn a rifle tag in Nevada and have hunted archery elk there as well. I have also drawn an early rifle hunt in unit 1 in Arizona years ago, as well as an archery hunt in the same unit in 2013. I killed 350"+ bulls on both tags. Arizona is one of the best states there is to hunt a giant bull and the archery hunt is the way to go, in my opinion. Utah has had better days when it comes to hunting elk but there are a few 380"+ bulls taken every year and it should be on your list of states to apply for. I am now

applying for deer in Utah since residents must choose between elk, deer, and antelope. I have hunted Colorado for elk, as well as Wyoming, and continue to build points for those states. I apply for Idaho in most years trying for one of the best archery or early muzzleloader hunts they offer. New Mexico is one of my favorite elk states to apply for. I have killed big bulls on draw tags in weird units that aren't known to be the best units in the state. It's such a great state with the absence of a point system and has good bulls in many different units. The archery hunts are hard to beat, but you can do well on any of the hunts. I now apply and gain points in Montana but I, personally, am not currently applying for California, Washington, or Oregon.

### MULE DEER

I really enjoy hunting big Mule deer! It's a constant challenge to obtain quality tags on an annual basis. There are also plenty of opportunities to obtain tags in easier to draw areas that with some serious amount of time and effort, trophy bucks can be found. I have been lucky enough to have tagged a few great bucks. I have drawn tags in most of the western states, except for California, Washington, and Oregon.

I apply aggressively in Colorado and try to get drawn every few years, if not every year, or try to find a landowner voucher to fill in on the years that I don't draw. I've found there are a few units that produce giant bucks more consistently than other units, but overall, there is a chance at a monster in nearly every unit in the state. If you are going to hunt the rifle hunts in the state, apply and draw often and some years, when the weather cooperates, you may kill a giant and other years it will be hot and dry, and you may not get as lucky. Hunting often and be willing to eat tags is key to killing a great buck in Colorado.

I love to apply for and hunt Idaho. It's a great state to



JASON'S 2017 NEW MEXICO ELK



REED MELLOR, 218" NEVADA MULE DEER  
GUIDED BY JASON CARTER



hunt and has many different hunts to choose from. Rifle hunts are key in my opinion. There is not a point system in Idaho, so draw as often as possible. Good bucks come from many units, so don't just wait for the "best" unit. Some great bucks are harvested on the general units in Idaho as well. With some heavy, preseason scouting, Idaho can be your ticket to a giant.

Nevada has a point system and is a great state to apply for on any season, but the early archery and early muzzleloader seasons are my favorite, especially if you can spend some serious time scouting or hire an outfitter that will spend the time it takes to find trophy bucks.

New Mexico has a few good bucks, in a limited number of units. It's hard to pick a unit known for average bucks and pull a rabbit out of the hat and kill a giant. I try to stay away from average deer units and really concentrate on applying for great units in New Mexico. Rarely will the easy to draw hunts ever produce a monster buck. I've eaten many deer tags in New Mexico and they taste bad. In fact, all tags across the west taste bad!

I apply for our general hunts here in Utah along with the limited entry units. Some giant bucks exist in Utah on the general units, but they require a lot of scouting to do well.

I apply for points only in Wyoming, thinking that someday I may find a place to harvest a great buck. I've often thought of applying for a general unit like region G or region H. On the right years, those regions really crank out some amazing bucks.



JASON & JUSTIN CARTER WITH JUSTIN'S  
2017 IDAHO MULE DEER

### ANTELOPE

I am not a huge fan of hunting antelope. I have hunted them several times, but they just have not done much for me personally. They are a great hunt for my kids and offer me a fun, low key hunt at times. A trophy antelope is hard to kill but again, it's hard for me to get excited about applying and saving points for years to draw a tag. I do apply for antelope points in Arizona, Colorado (since I have a bunch of points already), Nevada, and Wyoming. If there is a species that doesn't really matter to you, I still recommend that you apply and gain points for them in states that make sense. Someday you will most likely change your goals and you will be happy you did.

### BACKUP PLANS

There are good landowner deer tags in Nevada and Colorado. New Mexico offers landowner elk tags that are affordable, and good general deer tags are available in Utah and Idaho. I buy these in case I have a light year in the draws. I've been working hard on a couple general tags and hopefully down the road it pays off. Finding a monster in a general unit isn't easy but there is definitely a chance to find one. I feel that it takes years to learn new country and start following particular bucks to set yourself up for success on a giant. It's never too late to start scouting and set your self up for success 5+ years down the road.

### KIDS

There are plenty of options when it comes to applying your kids across the west. I apply my 4 kids for multiple states, tags, and points depending on their age and age limits of every state. My kids drew tags in Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah. Idaho has general over the counter tags, as well as tags that are unlimited in the draw. Hunters can hunt at age 10 so it is a state that a couple of my kids have killed their first big game animal in. Arizona has a few youth hunts, but they are generally antlerless hunts. I apply them for points in Arizona, beginning at age 10. New Mexico is extremely kid friendly and has some amazing youth hunts! There is no minimum age to hunt New Mexico so I apply them every year. They even have youth only archery hunts that can be really good also. The best deer seasons in the state are given to youth hunters. Applying in Colorado is a no brainer for kids 12 years of age and older. Tags are easy to come by and the game is plentiful. We live in Utah, so general tags are a must to apply for and Nevada is our close neighbor even though they don't offer kids any special season there. It's pretty easy to feed the family when all the kids are trigger happy! Gaining points is a lifetime pursuit and it's never too late or too early to get the kids started.



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# ADAM'S 2019 APPLICATION STRATEGY

BY ADAM BRONSON

## ADAM BRONSON'S APPLICATION STRATEGY FOR 2019

**While some things stay the same from year to year, sometimes the current years priorities shift for me and my immediate family when it comes to the tags we're trying to get that year. Here are some things I consider and weigh in my thought process before I start putting in for tags.**

First, everyone must customize an application plan to their priorities, available time, budget, species and type of hunts they like to go on. What I value as important to me may not matter to someone else. For example, sheep and Mule deer are what I like to hunt more than anything else. Elk are secondary to me behind sheep and Mule deer, but I still like to hunt elk if the quality of the hunt is high. I've drawn and killed a Mountain goat in Montana, and may kill one more in my life, but I don't apply for them much now. Shiras moose aren't that important to me, although I do apply for them in a couple states. One Shiras bull in my life would be fine, but if I never draw, I'm OK with that as well. A big free-ranging wild bull bison is on my want list someday, so I'd love to draw a tag for them.

### PRIORITIZING YOUR OPPORTUNITIES

Second, I must also factor in my wife and kid's applications each year as well. I try to get a couple hunts a year for each of my kids, so I usually have to plan what I think they'll draw as well and block their hunts out. Although with them, they usually are shorter 3-4 day windows since they are in school and don't have as much time. My wife has a bunch of points built up across the west, but I usually apply her for top tier hunts, as she's content to go with me or the kids unless she pulls a great tag herself. My hunts with my kids are typically the highlights of my fall as I get to help them get hooked deeper on hunting and make memories.

To start, I look at the tags either I or my family members and close friends have enough points that we are guaranteed to draw in the upcoming year. I block these hunts off as "off limit" time frames since I don't want to miss them at any cost. In states like Colorado, Utah, Arizona, and Wyoming where a percentage of their tags are issued to the highest points holders, there is some predictability in analyzing the draw odds and knowing you're likely to draw. My current bonus points in these states, and whether or not I want to use them in the current year, are always the first hunts I consider when



ADAM & HALLIE BRONSON WITH HALLIE'S  
2018 UTAH MULE DEER

setting my tentative schedule each year. If I have a tag I'm likely to draw, I mark it on the calendar first, and plan the rest of my application year around it, as if I'll get the tag, especially if it's a quality hunt I've waited many years for. In 2018, I had a hunt booked for Dall sheep in Alaska in August, so I didn't apply for any archery deer hunts that would conflict with this hunt. Start your planning with the hunts you have booked or that are nearly "sure things", and proceed with your annual plan from there.

### CASHING IN YOUR POINTS

Just because I have enough points to draw a certain tag, doesn't mean I apply for that tag in a given year. There are a few things I like to consider before deciding to cash my points in on a long-awaited tag. Looking at projected moon phases during the hunts, weather conditions such as a hard winter or drought, and my ability to draw multiple equivalent tags in different states are a few things I consider. I also look at season dates for the current year versus in the coming years if I know or can project them. Some states set seasons in 2-5 year chunks so you can look ahead. Season dates



can be a big deal in situations where states adjust their season dates each year as the calendar creeps forward or ratchets back a week every 5-6 years. Hunting archery elk deeper into September or deer further into November are a couple examples of how drawing a tag in a year with better season dates can help align more variables in your favor. However, I still caution everyone not to put complete stock in waiting for the year with the “best” season dates, as I believe weather conditions just prior to and during a hunt you draw, usually has a greater influence on the quality of a hunt than does the date on a calendar. More often than not, it seems like early storms in Colorado have made hunting better in the 2nd or 3rd rifle seasons versus the 4th seasons. Hot weather vs rainy cooler weather in September can greatly affect the elk rut as well. Drawing a tag and making the most of it will still require some lucky breaks when it comes to favorable weather the year you draw the tag.

### DRAWS WHERE YOU NEED A LITTLE LUCK

After analyzing the ‘guaranteed’ tags my family or I am likely to draw, I then proceed in my thought process to the hunts I’d really like to try and draw that year, but that I’d perhaps need a bit of luck to get. Examples of these types of hunts are elk and deer hunts in years where apparent winter and spring moisture has been off the charts and antler growth is bound to be amazing. In states like Arizona, Nevada, and New Mexico, years like this can be phenomenal and you should do all you can to try and draw a tag. Sometimes in a year like this in New Mexico, where there is no point system, I’ll deviate from the very best units and try and draw a mid-level or even average unit simply, to try and get in on the action and hope to “steal” a big buck or bull.

If it’s looking like a “normal” year in terms of precipitation, my available time, etc. then I apply for the type of hunts in all the states and units that fit my criteria of 350”+ elk, 190”+ deer, and usually play the odds in trying to draw just about any sheep tag I can get. In some states like Wyoming for deer and elk or in states like Idaho or New Mexico that don’t have bonus point systems, I’ll deviate from my strategy some and may relax my trophy criteria or weapon type to try a new unit or go out on a limb and try to get a tag and try to make something of it. I may try an exploratory unit that I’m willing to gamble a bit on, in hopes of having a deer or elk hunt that turns out better than I’d planned. I often eat these tags, but usually learn new country or something valuable from my hunt there. I treat my accumulated points and what I apply for in the top trophy producing states more conservatively than in states with moderate trophy quality or no bonus point systems. However, in years that I have a great hunt or two that I expect to draw, I play the rest of my applications in other states more conservatively and apply for harder to draw trophy units so I don’t add average hunts on top of my higher priority hunts. In the years I don’t have the points needed to draw the hunts I want in the maximum point pools, I get more aggressive in trying to draw an oddball unit somewhere or get easy to draw or general season tags to make sure I’ve got something to work with. If I draw something right out of the gate in February-March, then I adjust my draw

strategy in the states with later application deadlines. I use states like Wyoming for deer and antelope and Idaho for deer and elk (if I don’t apply for sheep in Idaho), as back up plans, if by late May either I or my family haven’t drawn much and are needing to try and draw something more.

Here is a species by species approach to how I usually apply for my own tags. Keep in mind, this is based on what is most important to me; your priorities should govern your own application strategy.

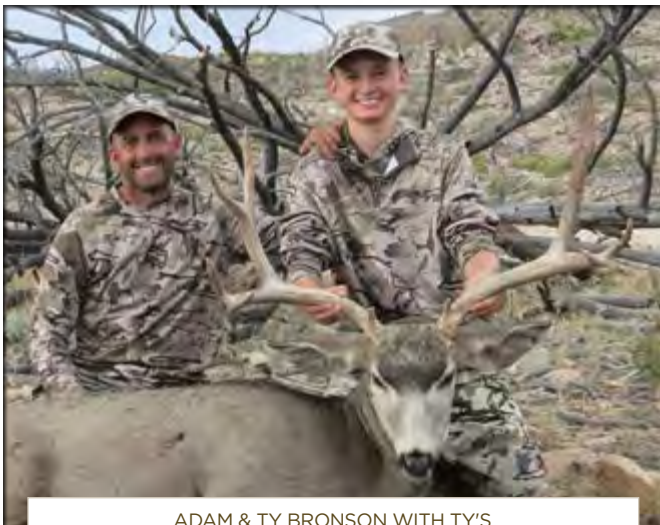


MIKE KOHLER, 2018 UTAH DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP  
WITH BRONSON OUTFITTING

### SHEEP STRATEGY

Hunting sheep is at the top of my wish list every year. With the exception of Utah, where I’m due to draw my Desert bighorn any year now because of my residency and accumulated bonus points, drawing sheep tags is a lifelong pursuit in all states, and I’m realistic that drawing nonresident tags is simply out of my hands. I know getting lucky is all that matters, so I simply apply for all the states I feel make the most sense, factoring in the cost to apply and the odds of drawing. I try and get my sheep hunting fix each year by guiding 10-15 sheep hunters in Utah, Nevada, or Arizona and must anticipate and incorporate these guided hunts into my application strategy as well. I got lucky and drew a California bighorn tag in Oregon in 2008, with odds of 1:217, so it can happen. I have a bunch of points built up for sheep in many states, plus I apply for them in New Mexico and Idaho where there are no bonus points. I apply for Desert bighorn in Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, and Utah and Rocky Mountain or California bighorns in Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, and Wyoming. I apply for more trophy units in states with higher trophy potential such as Arizona, Nevada, Montana, and New Mexico. Then I apply for mid-tier trophy units in the states not known for giant rams so I simply have a bit better drawing odds. I’d rather hunt a Desert or Rocky Mountain bighorn as many times in my life as I can get a tag, rather than only holding out for the best units in every state. I always apply for the raffle tags in the states with the biggest rams such as Arizona, Nevada, Montana, and New Mexico and usually in Wyoming and Colorado as well.





ADAM & TY BRONSON WITH TY'S  
2018 UTAH MULE DEER

## MULE DEER STRATEGY

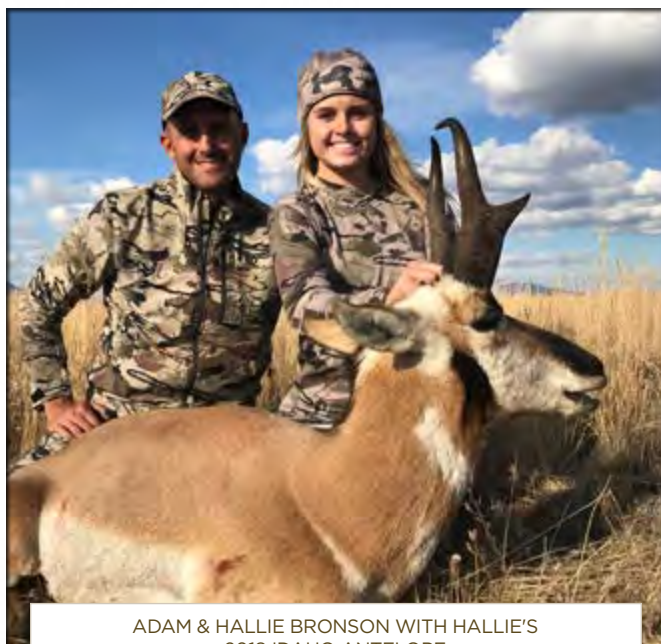
I grew up hunting Mule deer, so they consume my thoughts each year, especially since in nearly all states, killing a trophy Mule deer has gotten harder and harder. My Mule deer planning causes me to lose more sleep than anything else I apply for. At this point in my life, I am shifting to less time guiding trophy Mule deer hunts and more time hunting them more for myself. I simply feel that's what I need to do to give myself the best chances to consistently take big bucks. Big Mule deer are hard to kill consistently, and I'm going to increase the amount of time I need to dedicate to them in the coming years. Normally I tend to favor hunts where I can scout and find a deer to hunt, rather than rely on the rut or migration to expose a big deer. Finding and killing a big deer requires so many variables to go in your favor, and in many cases, it takes the right tag at the right time to make it happen. I can't draw enough elite tags every year for Mule deer so I have to make use of different methods to get tags. I like to try and have at least 3 Mule deer hunts each year between draw tags, general season tags, or landowner tags. I feel I simply need as many tags a year as I can do justice. This stacks the odds in my favor that I'll hopefully tag a buck I'm interested in. I treat Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah as top end trophy states, and I try and hunt Colorado and Nevada as often as I can through draw or landowner tags. I plan to use general season tags in Utah, Idaho, and Wyoming if I don't draw a great deer tag that deserves all my time and attention elsewhere. I cashed in my max deer points in Wyoming in 2017 so will now get general season deer tags there more often, especially since they have a May 31st deadline after most all other states draw results are out. The same goes for Idaho if I don't apply for sheep there. I use these two states as backup plans since they have late applications deadlines for deer. Once I cash in my pile of points in Arizona for one great trophy hunt, I'll likely look at drawing early season rifle or archery tags, or even Coues deer tags and hunt them more often as I really enjoy hunting Coues deer. I apply for Mule deer in Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Colorado, Nevada, Wyoming, and Idaho if I don't apply for sheep there.

## ELK STRATEGY

I prefer to hunt elk in the rut so I normally apply for archery hunts. Since I favor hunting Mule deer or hunting/guiding sheep over anything else, I personally don't need to hunt elk every year. I'm content waiting to hunt elk only when I get a really good tag. When I hunt elk I usually like to be in a unit with 350"+ bull potential so I usually wait awhile in between good elk tags. I apply in Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, and Wyoming for elk to fit my goals. As a resident in Utah, I must choose to apply for Mule deer or elk, not both, so I choose to apply for deer. I cashed in a bunch of elk points in Colorado in 2016 and killed a 360"+ bull with a rifle so I'm building points again there as well, but I don't consider Colorado a must-apply-for state for trophy elk hunters. I apply for elk "points only" in Montana and will use my points to archery hunt there every 4-5 years or so. I apply for the best elk hunts in Idaho if I don't apply there for sheep in a certain year. Depending on the year, I may apply for muzzleloader or rifle hunts in New Mexico versus archery hunts in September if my schedule looks more open in October.

## ANTELOPE STRATEGY

I enjoy hunting antelope but use them only to fill a gap in my schedule or to plan a hunt with my kids. I apply for antelope in Arizona, Wyoming, Nevada, and sometimes in New Mexico. I mainly apply for points only or apply for the best units only. I can usually squeeze in an antelope tag if I draw one unexpectedly, like I did in Arizona. I usually apply to draw antelope tags when I think I've got enough points to draw. For example, in Wyoming where they issue 75% of their tags to those with the most points, I typically apply when I know I can draw the tag I want. I have drawn a couple trophy antelope tags, one in the Red Desert of Wyoming with max points and an

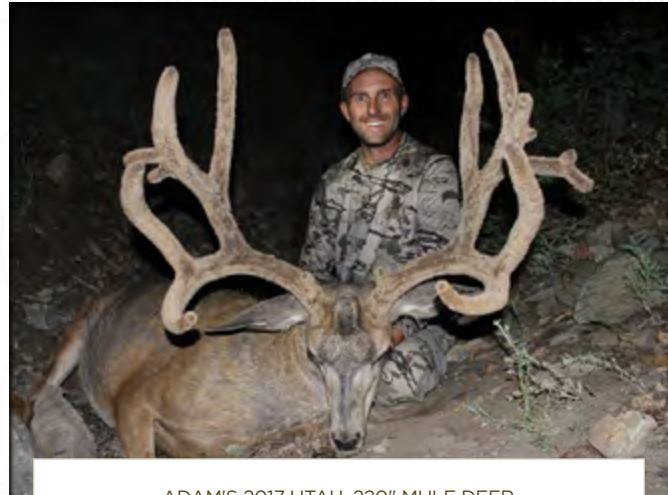


ADAM & HALLIE BRONSON WITH HALLIE'S  
2018 IDAHO ANTELOPE





ADAM AND THE PETE CARLSON CREW,  
2018 UTAH ROCKY MOUNTAIN BIGHORN



ADAM'S 2017 UTAH, 220" MULE DEER

Arizona unit 10 permit in the random draw where I took a giant buck. I scouted prior to my Arizona tag since it was likely the best antelope tag I may ever get, and I wanted to make the most of it. I helped my daughter take her first antelope last fall in Idaho after she drew a tag there. I added antelope to her applications since I was applying her for deer and elk in Idaho already. It paid off and we had a fun 2-day trip together. I apply my wife and kids in a couple states to plan fun family hunts together and will likely have them draw in Wyoming in the next year or two when it fits our schedules.

### MOUNTAIN GOATS, MOOSE, AND BISON

As I mentioned earlier, I've drawn and killed a Mountain goat in Montana and don't feel I need another goat, but I do apply for them in Montana again now that my 7 year waiting period is over. If I want another goat someday, I'll likely go for a big goat and apply in a trophy unit in Alaska or book a hunt in Alaska or British Columbia somewhere. I also have maximum points for moose in Montana simply because I started applying there when they started their point system, but I don't apply for moose regularly anywhere else, since Shiras moose just don't do much for me. As a Utah resident, I can't apply for Desert bighorn and bison, so I usually only apply for bison in Wyoming and occasionally in Montana.

### DRAWING TO MANY TAGS

There are a couple things I do to help limit the potential risks of drawing tags at the same time or have too many tags to do them all justice. First, the application season is spread out from January through June. Apply for the early states and then as much as you can, wait until the draw results come out, before submitting applications for the next states. It isn't possible to find out draw results in all the states before having to apply in other states, but for instance, Wyoming elk results are out by the end of February, leaving time to still apply in Utah and other states with deadlines in March. Wyoming deer and antelope and Idaho deer, elk, and antelope aren't due until late May and early June. These two states can be used to apply for a tag as a last resort after results in most all other deer and elk states are out.

### TURNING BACK TAGS

Some states like Utah and Nevada will let you surrender a drawn permit before the season begins and get your bonus points reinstated, including giving you a point for the current year. Arizona also allows you to do this if you created an online portal account and paid the \$5 fee at the time of application. Colorado also allows you to surrender your permit and get your points back if you do it 30 days prior to opening day. We don't recommend turning tags back very often when you draw an exceptional tag in the random draw, but if you have a high number of points and will likely get the tag again soon, it can be a good decision if for some reason your schedule changes or if drought or other factors occur after you apply and draw.

### DEVELOP A PLAN AND STICK TO IT!

We have hunters tell us all the time they are just doing points only on most of their applications so they don't draw too many tags in one year. Usually, these are the same individuals who end up being too conservative and draw nothing. I would say that it is 100 to 1 the number of people who tell us after the draw that they have drawn too many tags, versus those that hoped they'd drawn more. We highly encourage you to have your name in the draw as much as possible, to allow the element of luck to work for you.

Everyone's hunting goals, time, financial situation, etc. is different so applying aggressively across the west isn't what everyone can or should do. But I encourage you to develop your personal draw strategy and stick to it, updating it annually as needed. I encourage you to apply for hunts and use your points more often, rather than hoarding them forever. Point creep is an ongoing factor and is worsening in most states. Bonus points are an investment in your hunting future, but the goal is to use them to draw tags, not just build points endlessly. We hope this year's issues of Epic Outdoors magazine will help you get the tags you're after. Let us know if we can help you in any way.



# 2019 EPIC HUNTS GIVEAWAY

*Membership Drive*



## 7 EPIC HUNTS

*Seven Hunts - Seven Winners*

1. Join or Renew an Epic Outdoors Membership to enter the Alaska Dall Sheep drawing
2. You can purchase tickets for any of the other six hunts
3. Refer a new member and get ONE FREE entry for your choice of the 6 hunts

Entry Deadline Feb 28

visit [epicoutdoors.com](http://epicoutdoors.com) for details

Call us with any questions

**435-263-0777**



# 2019 Epic Hunts Giveaway Order Form



**ENTER  
ONLINE**  
EPICOUTDOORS.COM

OR



**ENTER BY  
MAIL**  
Epic Outdoors  
PO Box 2978  
Cedar city, UT 84721

OR



**ENTER BY  
PHONE**  
435-263-0777



**MEMBER LOYALTY HUNT** - Join or Renew and you will be entered into the Dall sheep hunt (You cannot purchase tickets for this hunt.)



**ALASKA  
DALL SHEEP HUNT**  
with Litzen Guide Service  
August 10-20, 2019  
Full description at epicoutdoors.com

If you have already joined or renewed for 2019 you are automatically entered

Select ALL that apply:

☐ Ticket Purchase ☐ New Membership ☐ Renewal  
(Memberships are \$100 US - \$150 foreign)

\*Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\*Cell Phone (Required to call winners) \_\_\_\_\_

\*Email (Required if you want a photo of your tickets emailed to you) \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment Method:** ☐ Check ☐ Credit Card ☐ Cash

If this is a gift - Name on Credit Card, and select one hunt entry to the right

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

CVV Code \_\_\_\_\_

Purchase at [www.epicoutdoors.com](http://www.epicoutdoors.com)  
or mail this form to:

**Epic Outdoors**  
PO Box 2978  
Cedar City, UT 84721

## TICKET PRICING

**1 = \$25**  
**5 = \$100** (save \$25)  
**10 = \$200** (save \$50) & Get Knife  
**30 = \$500** (Best Value, save \$250) & Get Knife & Phoneskope



Mark how many entries you want for each hunt in the boxes below

Stone  
Entries



**BRITISH COLUMBIA  
STONE SHEEP HUNT**  
with Full Curl Stone Outfitters  
August 1-14, 2019  
Full description at epicoutdoors.com

Bear  
Entries



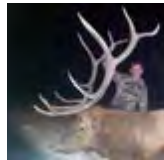
**ALASKA  
BROWN BEAR HUNT**  
with Alaska Trophy Adventures  
May 10-25, 2020  
Full description at epicoutdoors.com

Deer  
Entries



**NEVADA UNIT 231  
MULE DEER HUNT**  
with 8 Mile Outfitters  
Choose your weapon Fall 2019  
Full description at epicoutdoors.com

Elk  
Entries



**NEW MEXICO UNIT 15  
ARCHERY ELK HUNT**  
with David Mathews Outfitters  
September 2019  
Full description at epicoutdoors.com

Antelope  
Entries



**NEW MEXICO PRIVATE RANCH  
ANTELOPE HUNT**  
w/ Land of Enchantment Trophy Hunts  
Mid October 2019  
Full description at epicoutdoors.com

Lion  
Entries



**COLORADO  
MOUNTAIN LION HUNT**  
with Black Timber Outfitters  
Variable Dates Winter 2019/2020  
Full description at epicoutdoors.com

Total Entries

These are premium  
hunts with *Epic Approved*  
Outfitters and excellent  
trophy potential.



## 2019 STATE AUCTION, RAFFLE, AND SPECIAL TAGS

### ALASKA

Alaska Department of Fish and Game offers special permits to qualified nonprofit organizations that are dedicated to fish and game law enforcement, management of hunted game species, or use of game populations for hunting. The revenue from the sale of these permits is used to fund state wildlife management programs. A complimentary hunting license and big game tag will be provided to winners of these permits. There are permits awarded annually by specific hunting units for Dall sheep, Mountain goat, Brown Bear, caribou, muskox, bison, moose, and elk. Visit the following link to see the available tags for 2019-2020. [http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=huntlicense.auction\\_awards](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=huntlicense.auction_awards)

### ARIZONA

Each year, the Arizona Game and Fish Commission awards Special Big Game License Tags, sometimes called Commissioners' tags, to selected 501-c3 wildlife conservation organizations who are charged to market and sell those tags to raise funds for Arizona's wildlife. Up to three tags for each of the following species are typically allocated: Pronghorn antelope, Bighorn sheep, Black bear, buffalo, elk, javelina, Mountain lion, Mule deer, Coues White-tailed deer, and turkey. In Arizona, tags allow the recipients to hunt for 365 days statewide in most cases, except for sheep. All revenues raised are then returned to the Arizona Game and Fish Department to be directly used to benefit those species, through wildlife and habitat management, in coordination with the Arizona Habitat Partnership Committee. Tags are typically made available to the public through auctions or raffles, including the Big Game Super Raffle. See <http://www.arizonabiggamesuperraffle.com/>

Here is a list of Arizona auction tags for the 2018-19 season.

Species	Organization	Contact
Mule Deer and Coues Deer	Mule Deer Foundation	<a href="http://www.muledeer.org">www.muledeer.org</a>
Mule Deer and Coues Deer	AZ Deer Association	<a href="http://www.azdeer.org">www.azdeer.org</a>
Two Antelope Tags	AZ Antelope Foundation	<a href="http://www.azantelope.org">www.azantelope.org</a>
Elk and Bison	AZ Elk Society	<a href="http://www.arizonaelksociety.org">www.arizonaelksociety.org</a>
Elk	RMEF	<a href="http://www.rmef.org">www.rmef.org</a>
Desert Bighorn	Wild Sheep Foundation	<a href="http://www.wildsheep.org">www.wildsheep.org</a>
RM Bighorn	AZ Desert Bighorn Sheep Society	<a href="http://www.adbss.org">www.adbss.org</a>
Bison	AZ Bowhunters Association.	<a href="http://www.archerybowhunters.com">www.archerybowhunters.com</a>

### CALIFORNIA

Each year California issues fund-raising auction tags to qualified wildlife conservation groups, to auction. California also issues fund-raising random drawing tags and both these types of tags are available for special hunting opportunities for elk, Pronghorn antelope, Desert Bighorn sheep, and deer in select areas. Hunters may apply as many times as they wish for the special

drawing tags during the regular California big game application period. They do not use or affect your bonus points. These types of permits generate dedicated funding for wildlife management programs that benefit big game species. The groups marketing the auction tags, and specifics on the raffle tags, are found at the following link. <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing/Hunting/Fundraising>

### COLORADO

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is authorized to issue 18 special auction and raffle big game licenses, each year, valid in any open unit with extended seasons. Qualified organizations that are a nonprofit organization directly involved in the conservation of wildlife, in Colorado or the Division, may be authorized by the commission to conduct the license auction or raffle. CPW Commission authorized license contracts for 2017-2021 hunting seasons. The number of licenses available for each species, and the conservation organizations awarded contracts for those licenses, are listed in the table below. Contact the organizations for specific dates and venues for each auction and raffle tag.

Species	Organization	Contact
Bighorn Sheep Auction and Raffle	Rocky Mountain Bighorn Society	<a href="http://www.Bighornsheep.org">www.Bighornsheep.org</a>
Mountain Goat Auction and Raffle	Rocky Mountain Bighorn Society	<a href="http://www.Bighornsheep.org">www.Bighornsheep.org</a>
Moose Auction	Ducks Unlimited-Colorado	<a href="http://www.ducks.org/colorado">www.ducks.org/colorado</a>
Moose Raffle	SCI- Colorado Chapter	<a href="http://scicolorado.org">scicolorado.org</a>
Mule Deer Auction and Raffle	Mule Deer Foundation	<a href="http://www.muledeer.org">www.muledeer.org</a>
Mule Deer Auction	Colorado Mule Deer Association	Philip Johnson 970-216-3573
Mule Deer Raffle	SCI- Colorado Chapter	<a href="http://scicolorado.org">scicolorado.org</a>
Elk Auction	RMEF	<a href="http://www.rmef.org">www.rmef.org</a>
Elk Auction	Mule Deer Foundation	<a href="http://www.muledeer.org">www.muledeer.org</a>
Elk Raffle	Colorado Wildlife Federation	<a href="http://www.coloradowildlife.org">www.coloradowildlife.org</a>
Elk Raffle	SCI- Colorado Chapter	<a href="http://scicolorado.org">scicolorado.org</a>
Pronghorn Auction	Muley Fanatic Foundation	Scott Hampel 720-261-6232
Pronghorn Auction	Mule Deer Foundation	<a href="http://www.muledeer.org">www.muledeer.org</a>
Pronghorn Raffle	SCS- Colorado Chapter	<a href="http://scicolorado.org/">http://scicolorado.org/</a>
Pronghorn Raffle	Rocky Mountain Bighorn Society	<a href="http://www.Bighornsheep.org">www.Bighornsheep.org</a>

### IDAHO

The Idaho Fish and Game Commission issues one auction Bighorn sheep tag and one lottery Bighorn sheep tag annually. The Wild Sheep Foundation will auction the statewide Bighorn sheep permit at their Sheep Show in Reno, NV, February 7-9, 2019. Visit [www.wildsheepfoundation.org](http://www.wildsheepfoundation.org) for more information. The Idaho Wild Sheep Foundation typically will handle the raffle ticket sales for the raffle sheep tag which is usually drawn in late July each year. Visit [www.idahowildsheep.org](http://www.idahowildsheep.org) for more information on this permit.



Idaho also issues tags for deer, elk, antelope, and moose through the Idaho Super Tag program. These tags are essentially raffle tags, with tickets sold by mail or online, during two application periods each summer. If drawn, you can hunt during any open season for the species you draw. You can buy as many chances as you want for these permits and these permits are in addition to any regularly issued Idaho draw permits. Super Tag information will come out in the Idaho species regulations, later in the year, or visit <https://idfg.idaho.gov/superhunt> for more information.

## MONTANA

Montana allows the auction of one statewide permit for each big game species annually and awards these permits to qualified wildlife conservation organizations. Here is a list of the 2019 permits and organizations marketing them.

Species	Organization	Contact
Moose	Montana Ducks Unlimited	mtduckhunter@gmail.com 406-740-1025
Sheep	Wild Sheep Foundation	www.wildsheepfoundation.org 307-527-6261
Goat	SCI-Great Falls Chapter	corey.halvorsen@hotmail.com 406-788-4147
Elk	RMEF	www.rmef.org 406-523-0242
Mule Deer	Mule Deer Foundation	www.muledeer.org 801-973-3940

Montana also sells \$5 raffle opportunities they call the Montana Super Tag Lottery, for each big game species. The ticket purchase deadline is usually in late June or July. You can purchase as many \$5 entries as you want for each species. If drawn, you can hunt statewide, during any open season, for the respective species. Tickets are sold online and can easily be purchased during the regular application periods each spring. For more information visit <http://fwp.mt.gov/hunting/licenses/all/supertag.html>

## NEVADA

Nevada issues auction permits for big game species with typical hunt dates of August 1, through December 31. Nevada Department of Wildlife issues these permits to qualified wildlife conservation groups, to auction at their events. Here is a list of the groups and the tags they will be auctioning for 2019.

Species	Organization	Function	Contact
Desert Bighorn	Wild Sheep Foundation	2/7-9/2019	wildsheepfoundation.org
CA Bighorn Sheep	Nevada Bighorns Unlimited	4/05/2019	nevadabighornsunlimited.org
Desert Bighorn	Nevada Bighorns Unlimited	4/05/2019	nevadabighornsunlimited.org
Mule Deer	MDF	2/15/2019	nevadasportsmenunlimited.org
Mule Deer	WHIN	3/09/2019	whinlv.org
Elk	SCI Northern NV	3/02/2019	nnsi.com
Elk	Meadow Valley Wildlife Unlimited	3/16/2019	mvwu.org
Antelope	NV Waterfowl Assn.	May 2019	nevadawaterfowl.org

Nevada also has a couple raffle tag programs, The Silver State Tags and Dream Tags, where you can purchase chances to draw online. See [www.ndow.org/Hunt/Specialty\\_Tags/](http://www.ndow.org/Hunt/Specialty_Tags/).

## NEW MEXICO

New Mexico offers several auctions and raffles, for big game tags valid statewide. These tags are marketed by different groups at venues across the West. They also authorize two auction enhancement packages where the recipient can hunt a deer, elk, antelope, oryx, and ibex, from September 1 through January 31. Here is a list of the statewide permits to be auctioned and raffled in 2019.

Species	Organization	Function Date	Contact
RM Bighorn Auction	Wild Sheep Foundation	02/08-9/2019	wildsheepfoundation.org
Desert Bighorn Auction	Wild Sheep Foundation	02/08-9/2019	wildsheepfoundation.org
RM Bighorn Raffle	NM Wild Sheep Foundation	June deadline	bartlebc@yahoo.com 575-635-3499
Desert Bighorn Raffle	NM Wild Sheep Foundation	June deadline	bartlebc@yahoo.com 575-635-3499
Deer Auction and Raffle	Mule Deer Foundation	TBD	muledeer.org
Elk Auction and Raffle	RMEF	01/26/2019	rmef.org
Enhancement package	RMEF	01/26/2019	rmef.org
Enhancement Package	MDF	02/15-16/19	muledeer.org

## OREGON

Oregon issues several different auction permits to wildlife conservation groups. These permits offer statewide big game hunting opportunities. They also have several comparable raffle tag opportunities, for the same species they issue auction permits for. These are printed in more detail in their regulations. The easiest way to buy raffle tickets for nonresidents is online at [www.odfw.com/online\\_license\\_sales](http://www.odfw.com/online_license_sales). You can read more about Oregon auction and raffle tags at [http://www.dfw.state.or.us/resources/hunting/auctions\\_raffles/](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/resources/hunting/auctions_raffles/) Below is a list of the auction permits available for 2019.

### Bighorn Sheep

February 7-9, 2019

Wild Sheep Foundation

Contact: Don Whittaker (503) 947-6325

### Statewide Elk

February 16, 2019

RMEF Corvallis Chapter

Contact: Daniel Beraldo 541-790-9255

### Statewide Deer

February 16, 2019

Mule Deer Foundation, National

Contact: Ken Hand (541) 281-2224

### Statewide Elk

February 23, 2019

Oregon Hunters Association, Redmond Chapter

Bryan Cook 971-270-7035

### Statewide Deer

March 2, 2019



Oregon Bowhunters  
Contact: Wayne Endicott 541-556-7036

### **Statewide Deer**

March 9, 2019  
SCI, Lewis and Clark Chapter  
Contact: James McWhorter 360-607-1021

### **Statewide Elk**

Oregon Hunters Association, Yamhill Co Chapter  
Contact: Bryan Cook 971-270-7035

### **Statewide Deer**

April 6, 2019  
NWTF, Central Oregon  
Contact: Jason Preston 541-693-4597

### **Statewide Elk**

May 18, 2019  
Oregon Hunters Association  
Contact: Bryan Cook 971-270-7035

### **Pronghorn Antelope**

March 30, 2019  
MDF, Northern Oregon Chapter  
Contact: Ken Hand 541-281-2224

### **Rocky Mountain Goat**

May 4, 2019  
Oregon FNAWS  
Contact: Tom Peterson 503-816-8124

### **Statewide Deer/Elk Combination**

April 20, 2019  
RMEF, John Day Chapter  
Contact: Daniel Beraldo 541-790-9255

## **UTAH**

Utah issues conservation tags to qualified nonprofit wildlife conservation organizations, to auction at various banquets and events each year. Tags are issued for deer, elk, antelope, moose, bison, Mountain goat, Desert Bighorn sheep, Rocky Mountain Bighorn sheep, bear, and lion. There are numerous tags available on most units in the state and they are designated as certain weapon or season-specific tags. While the prices of some of these tags can get quite high, they are a great way to secure a place to hunt and put money back on the ground that is earmarked for wildlife projects, research, and conservation efforts. The list of available Utah tags is extensive, so we've just listed a link to the available tags. If you have an interest in buying a tag, give us a call at 435-263-0777. To view the list of 2019-2021 tags and the various groups that will market them, go to <https://wildlife.utah.gov/utah-conservation-permit-program-annual-report.html>

## **WASHINGTON**

Washington offers both auction and raffle opportunities for big game, valid either statewide or in specified areas of the state. The raffle tag opportunities will be finalized later in the spring and explained, in detail, in their regulations. State lottery laws do not allow online raffle ticket sales of the state issued tags, so applicants must buy their tickets at license agents or have someone in Washington do so for them. However, the Washington

Wild Sheep Foundation chapter typically raffles a Bighorn sheep permit. Raffle chances can be purchased on their website at [www.washingtonwsf.org](http://www.washingtonwsf.org)

Here is a list of the auction permits authorized this year in Washington. You can also go to <http://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/permits/>

## **WYOMING**

Wyoming has a Super Tag Raffle program where one permit is drawn annually for Bighorn sheep, moose, Mountain goat, bison, elk, deer, antelope, Black bear, and Mountain lion. A Super Tag Trifecta raffle is also drawn which allows one winner to choose three different species they wish to hunt. Winners of either raffle will not be subject to lifetime restrictions for Mountain goat and wild bison licenses, or the 5-year waiting period for Bighorn sheep and moose. Also, preference points will not be lost for any species when the hunting license was acquired through winning either of the raffles. Licenses obtained from the Super Tag and Super Tag Trifecta raffles are not transferrable. A person may purchase unlimited raffle chances, for both the Super Tag Raffle and Super Tag Trifecta. Tickets are \$10 each for the Super Tag Raffle and \$30 each for the Super Tag Trifecta. Tickets may be purchased online July 16, 2018 - July 1, 2019.

Wyoming also awards two types of tags to wildlife conservation groups, to auction or raffle at various events each year. The first tags are called Governor tags in which the buyer can hunt, in most units in the state, during the open seasons. Wyoming annually authorizes 5 Bighorn sheep, 5 Shiras moose, 5 bison, and 10 tags that give the buyer the choice to redeem them for either deer, or elk, or antelope. These Governor tags are auctioned licenses.

The second type of permits are called Commissioner licenses in which Wyoming Game and Fish Commissioners can choose wildlife or charity groups to award permits that they then can raffle or auction at their discretion. Typically, there are 50 or more of these Commissioner licenses authorized each year. They are valid for either a deer, or elk, or antelope, and the recipient must choose one unit to hunt their chosen species, during the regular season, in that unit. These tags are a way to hunt a unit and species without having to wait and draw a tag. Commissioner tags have been selling for \$15,000-18,000. The lists of groups getting these tags is lengthy, so we've simply put a link here for more information. For information on Wyoming Governor and Commissioner tags visit [www.wgfd.wyo.gov/Apply-or-Buy/Commissioner-and-Governor-Licenses](http://www.wgfd.wyo.gov/Apply-or-Buy/Commissioner-and-Governor-Licenses)

## **SOUTH DAKOTA**

South Dakota GFP will allow one Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep permit to be auctioned through the Wild Sheep Foundation-Midwest Chapter on March 16, 2019. Proceeds from the auction will help fund South Dakota bighorn sheep management, research, and restoration efforts. For more information go to [www.midwestwildsheep.com](http://www.midwestwildsheep.com).





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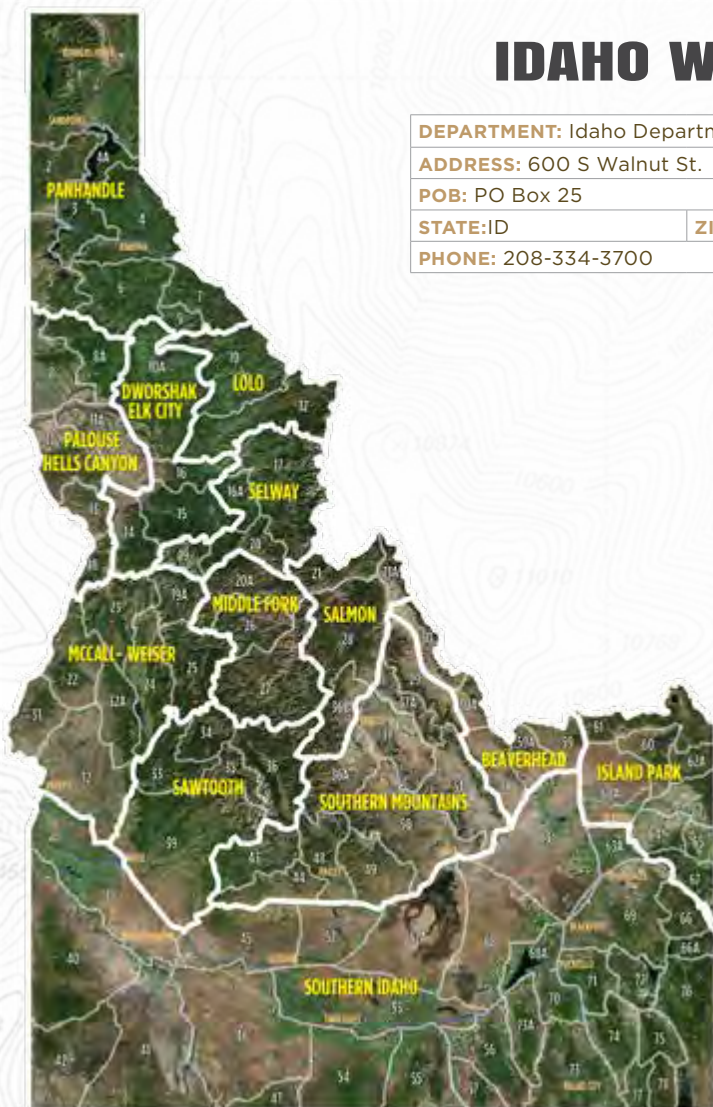


photo credit: NPS

**Editors Note:** Wolf hunting is one of the best hunts a hunter can go on in the winter/spring, when there is nothing else to do! Idaho and Montana have been allowing wolves to be hunted for years, and as a result, the wolves are trained and tougher to hunt than they were when it first opened. Adam Bronson and myself have killed wolves in Idaho and found it to be an incredible experience and a trophy we won't ever forget! If you're looking for something to do this winter or spring, go wolf hunting!

## IDAHO WOLF HUNTING

<b>DEPARTMENT:</b> Idaho Department of Fish and Game	
<b>ADDRESS:</b> 600 S Walnut St.	
<b>POB:</b> PO Box 25	<b>CITY:</b> Boise
<b>STATE:</b> ID	<b>ZIP:</b> 83707
<b>PHONE:</b> 208-334-3700	<b>WEBSITE:</b> idfg.idaho.gov



### Idaho License and Tag Fees

	Resident Adult	Youth Resident (10-17 yrs old)	Nonresident Adult	Nonresident Junior Mentored (10-17 yrs old)
Hunting License	\$12.75	\$7.25	\$154.75	\$31.75
Wolf Tag - each	\$11.50	\$11.50	\$31.75	\$31.75

**Wolf Quotas:** There are no quotas set up for wolf zones. Hunters can buy a tag(s) and hunt within the season dates and hunt without fear that a quota has been met.

**Evidence of Sex:** Evidence of sex must be left attached to the hide of any wolf taken. See regulations for details. Either sex may be taken.

**Tags:** No person may take more wolves than the number of legal tags he or she possesses. Tags must be validated and securely attached immediately upon killing a wolf.

**Big Game Feeding Sites:** It is unlawful to hunt, trap, or pursue wolves within one-half mile of any active Idaho Fish and Game big game feeding site.

**Electronic Calls:** Electronic calls may be used to attract wolves for the purpose of harvest.



## 2018 - 2019 Wolf Hunting Seasons

Units	Season Dates	Notes
1, 2, 3, 4, 4A, 5, 6, 7, 8, 8A, 9, 10A, 11, 11A, 13, 14, 15, 18	July 1 - June 30 Aug 1 - Mar 31	Private land only
16	July 1 - June 30 Aug 1 - Mar 31 Aug 1 - June 30	Private land only Hunting open in that portion of Unit 16, south of the Selway River only. Hunting open in that portion of Unit 16, north of the Selway River only
10, 12, 16A, 17, 19, 20	July 1 - June 30 Aug 1 - June 30	Private land only
20A, 26, 27	Aug 30 - June 30	
21, 28	Aug 30 - Mar 31 Aug 30 - June 30	Open outside designated wilderness only Open inside designated wilderness only
19A, 21A, 22, 23, 24, 25, 31, 33, 34, 35, 36, 36B, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 46, 48, 54, 55, 57, 60, 60A, 61, 62, 62A, 63, 63A, 64, 65, 67, 68, 68A, 71, 43A, 74	Aug 30 - Mar 31	
29, 30, 30A, 32, 32A, 36A, 37, 37A, 45, 47, 49, 50, 51, 52, 52A, 53, 56, 58, 59, 59A, 66, 66A, 69, 70, 72, 73, 75, 76, 77, 78	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Motorized hunting rule applies. See pages 102 - 104 of the regulations

**Telemetry:** It is unlawful to take wolves with the aid of radio-telemetry.

**Dogs:** Use of dogs to attract or pursue wolves is prohibited.

**Bait:** Hunting big game over bait is illegal, except for Black bears. Wolves may be taken incidentally to bear baiting. It is unlawful to hunt wolves within 200 yards of the perimeter of any designated dump or sanitary landfill.

**Retrieving Meat:** Hunters and trappers are not required to retrieve meat from a harvested wolf. For tips on skinning a wolf, contact a regional Fish and Game office, or see page 4 of the regulations.

**Wolves with Radio Collars:** Biologists use radio collars to monitor wolf activity, assess population status, and help determine future hunting opportunity. Hunters and trappers are required to return any radio collars when they check in their wolves.

**Mandatory Report and Check:** Hunters and trappers must report killing a wolf within 72 hours, by calling the wolf reporting number at 1-855-648-5558. They must also, within 10 days of the date of kill, present the skull and hide to a Fish and Game regional office or conservation officer for removal and retention of a premolar tooth



STEVE ZETTEL OF IDAHO WILDERNESS COMPANY WITH AN IDAHO WOLF TAKEN BY ONE OF HIS CLIENTS

and to have the hide tagged with an official state export tag. To have a raw wolf hide in their possession without an official export tag attached, a person must have a fur buyer or taxidermist license or appropriate import documentation, except during the open season and for 10 days after the close of the season. Fish and Game's headquarters office is not equipped to check in wolves. In the Boise area, these animals can be checked Monday through Friday, at the Fish and Game regional office in Nampa, 3101 S. Powerline Road, 208-465-8465, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. or by appointment, at the Garden City facility, 109 W. 44th St., 208-327-7095.

**Nonresident Deer or Elk tags:** A nonresident deer or elk tag, excluding Nonresident Junior Mentored/DAV deer and elk tags, may be used to tag a Black bear, Mountain lion, or Gray wolf



## 2019 WOLF HUNTING OVERVIEW

### 2017 Wolf Harvest Info

Unit	Males	Females	Total Harvest
1	17	16	33
2		1	1
4	18	13	31
4A	1	2	3
6	8	2	11
7	4	4	8
8A	1	1	2
10	3	4	7
10A	10	4	14
12	11	4	15
14	5	6	11
15	9	10	19
16	3		3
16A		1	1
17	2	1	3
18		1	1
19		1	1
19A	3		3
20	2	1	3
20A	1	2	3
21	1	2	3
21A	1	1	2
22	2		2
23	1	1	2
24	2	1	3
25	3	3	6
26		2	2
27	3	8	11
28	6	10	16
29	1	2	3
32A		3	3
33		1	1
34	1	1	2
35	2	2	4
36	4	3	7
36B	5	5	10
39	6	7	13
43		2	2
44		1	1
48	1		1
50	2	2	4
60	1	1	2
62	2	3	5
67	1	1	2
76	1		1

### 2016 Wolf Harvest Info

Unit	Males	Females	Total Harvest
1	14	16	30
2	1		1
3	1		1
4	17	11	28
4A	3	5	8
5		2	2
6	9	5	14
7	11	2	13
9	1	1	2
10	5	1	6
10A	16	9	25
12	6	4	10
14	2	4	6
15	8		8
16	1		1
17	1	2	3
18		1	1
19	4	2	6
19A	4		4
20	2	3	5
21	4	7	11
21A	1	3	4
22	2	1	3
23	3		3
25		1	1
26	1	2	3
27	3	4	7
28	6	6	12
32A	1	3	4
33	2		2
34	1	2	3
35	1		1
36		1	1
36A	2	3	5
36B	2	2	4
39	7	2	9
43	2	1	3
44	4		4
45	1		1
48	1		1
50	2	1	3
60		2	2
61	3	1	4
62	1		1
76		1	1



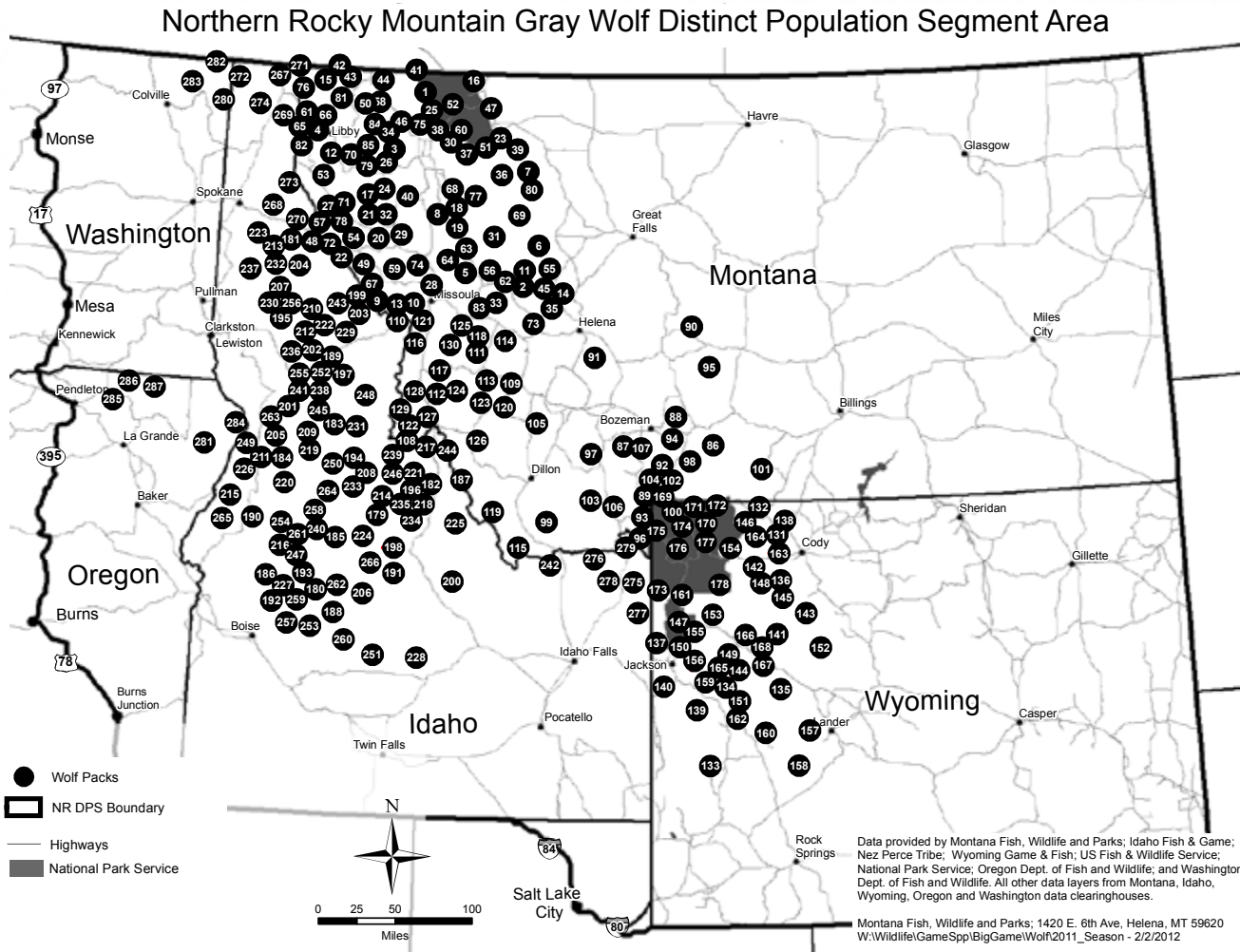
### OUTFITTER WOLF HUNTS

If you are looking for an outfitted wolf hunt, we have trusted guides, in Canada and the U.S., who offer great opportunities to kill big wolves.

Call our office at 435-263-0777 for more information.



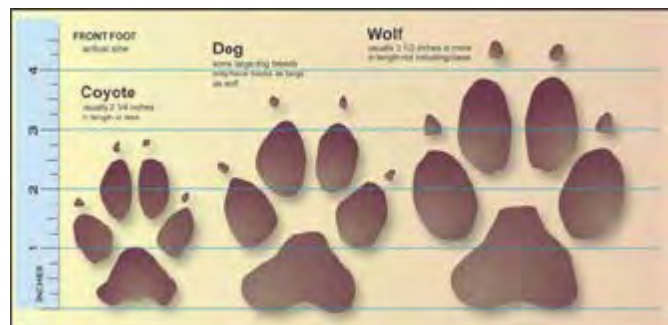




## RECOGNIZING A GRAY WOLF

Wolves can be a light gray, dark gray, or even black. Full grown wolves are about 2.5 feet tall and 6 feet long. Wolf tracks are about 5 inches long by about 4 inches wide, with 4 toes and claws in an oval shape. Wolf scat ranges from a half to one and half inches in diameter, but is usually greater than an inch. Wolf scat will generally taper to one point and usually contains hair and bone fragments.

- Gray wolves are built for travel with narrow bodies, long legs and large feet;
- They can easily cover 10-20 miles in a day;
- Montana wolves can be either gray or black, and sometimes white;
- Montana wolves weigh 70-120 pounds and have a blocky square head;
- Coyotes weigh 25-40 pounds and have a narrow, triangular shaped head.







## MONTANA WOLF HUNTING

<b>DEPARTMENT:</b> Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks	
<b>ADDRESS:</b> 1420 East 6th Avenue	
<b>POB:</b> PO Box 200701	<b>CITY:</b> Helena
<b>STATE:</b> MT	<b>ZIP:</b> 59620-0701
<b>PHONE:</b> 406-444-2535	<b>WEBSITE:</b> fwp.mt.gov

Montana License and Tag Fees		
	Resident	Nonresident
Base Hunting License	\$10	\$15
Conservation License	\$8	\$10
Wolf Hunting License	\$19	\$50

**Bag Limits:** Persons could take up to five wolves via any combination of hunting and trapping (maximum harvest of five wolves per person). Five wolves can be taken by means of hunting each with a valid wolf license. Trapping is authorized with a valid trapping license and upon completion of mandatory wolf trapping certification.

**Licenses:** Wolf licenses are available at all Fish, Wildlife & Parks offices, FWP license providers, and online at <http://fwp.mt.gov>. A wolf license purchased after August 31 may not be used until 24-hours after the license is issued. A wolf license must be purchased by February 28, 2019. The conservation license allows hunters, anglers, and trappers access to all legally accessible State School Trust lands. Contact a DNRC office for regulations

**Electronic Calls:** Electronic calls can be used for wolf hunting.

**Mandatory Report:** All successful wolf hunters and trappers must personally report their wolf kill within 24 hours regardless of their intent to retain possession of the hide and skull by calling the Wolf Reporting Number at 1-877-FWP-WILD (1-877-397-9453) or 406-444-0356 so

that FWP can monitor quota levels. Any Wolf Management Unit (WMU) can close upon a 24-hour notice.

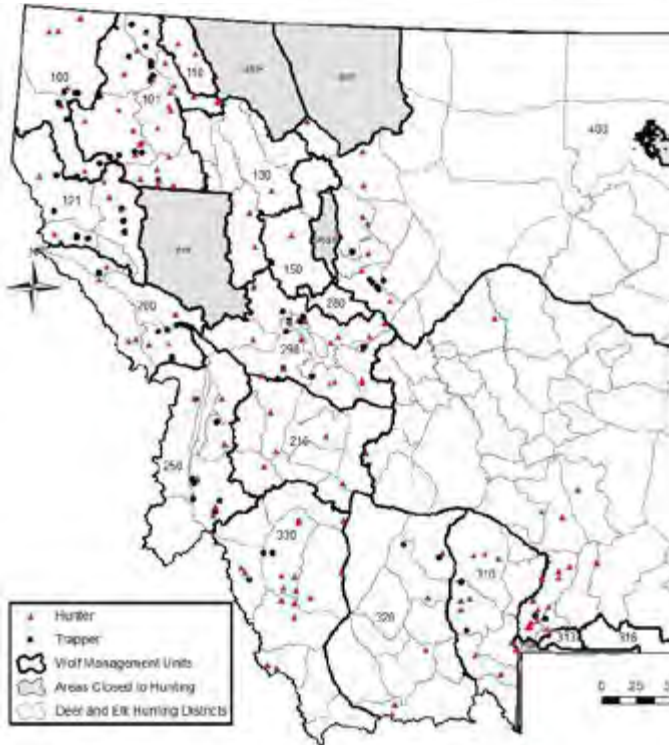
**Harvest Quota:** For an updated wolf quota status call 1-800-385-7826 OR 406-444-1989, 24 hours/day - 7 days/week or by checking <http://fwp.mt.gov>.

Successful hunters in backcountry areas will be allowed to report a wolf harvest within 24 hours of reaching a trailhead, except in WMUs 313 and 316 and backcountry areas with a quota, where successful hunters are required to report their harvest within 24 hours of taking a wolf. Wolf 24-hour Harvest Reporting 1-877-FWP-WILD (397-9453) OR 406-444-0356.

A hunter or trapper that legally harvests a wolf and wishes to retain possession of the hide and skull, or incidentally captures a wolf that must be dispatched, is required to personally present the hide and skull (in an unfrozen condition) to a designated FWP employee, within ten (10) days after harvest for the purpose of: inspection and registration of kill, verify evidence of sex, and tagging the hide. The hide tag must thereafter remain attached to the hide until tanned.



## 2017 HARVEST LOCATIONS



### Montana Wolf Season Dates

Season	Start Date	End Date
Archery Only	September 1	September 14
General Season Rifle	September 15	March 15, 2019
Trapping	December 15	February 28, 2019

Note: Quotas and regulations vary by district, check regulations for district specific information.

**Evidence of Sex:** Evidence of sex must remain naturally intact on the hide.

**Hunter Orange Firearm Hunters:** Any person hunting or accompanying a hunter as an outfitter or guide must wear a minimum of 400 square inches of hunter orange (fluorescent) material above the waist, visible at all times. Hunter orange is not required after December 1, 2017.

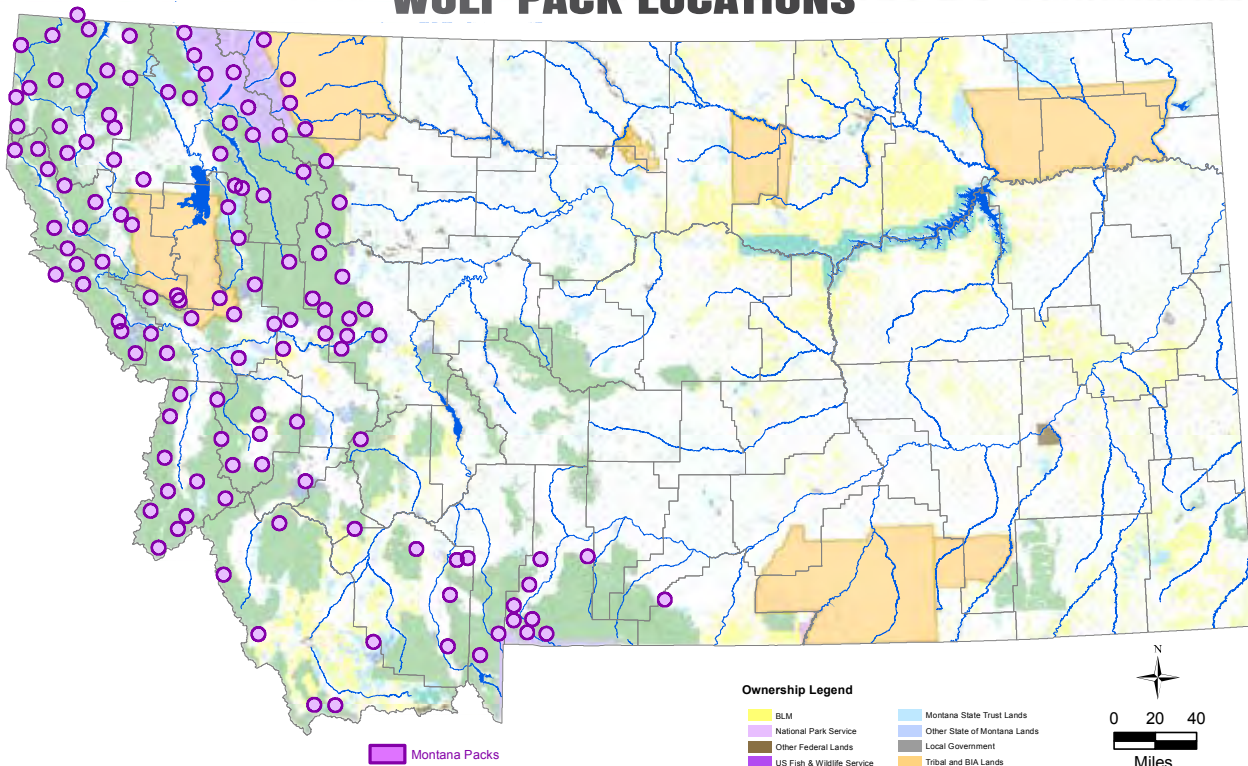
**Baiting:** It is illegal to hunt wolves over bait.

**Dogs:** It is unlawful to hunt wolves with dogs.

**Artificial Lures:** It is unlawful to use artificial scents or lures to hunt wolves.

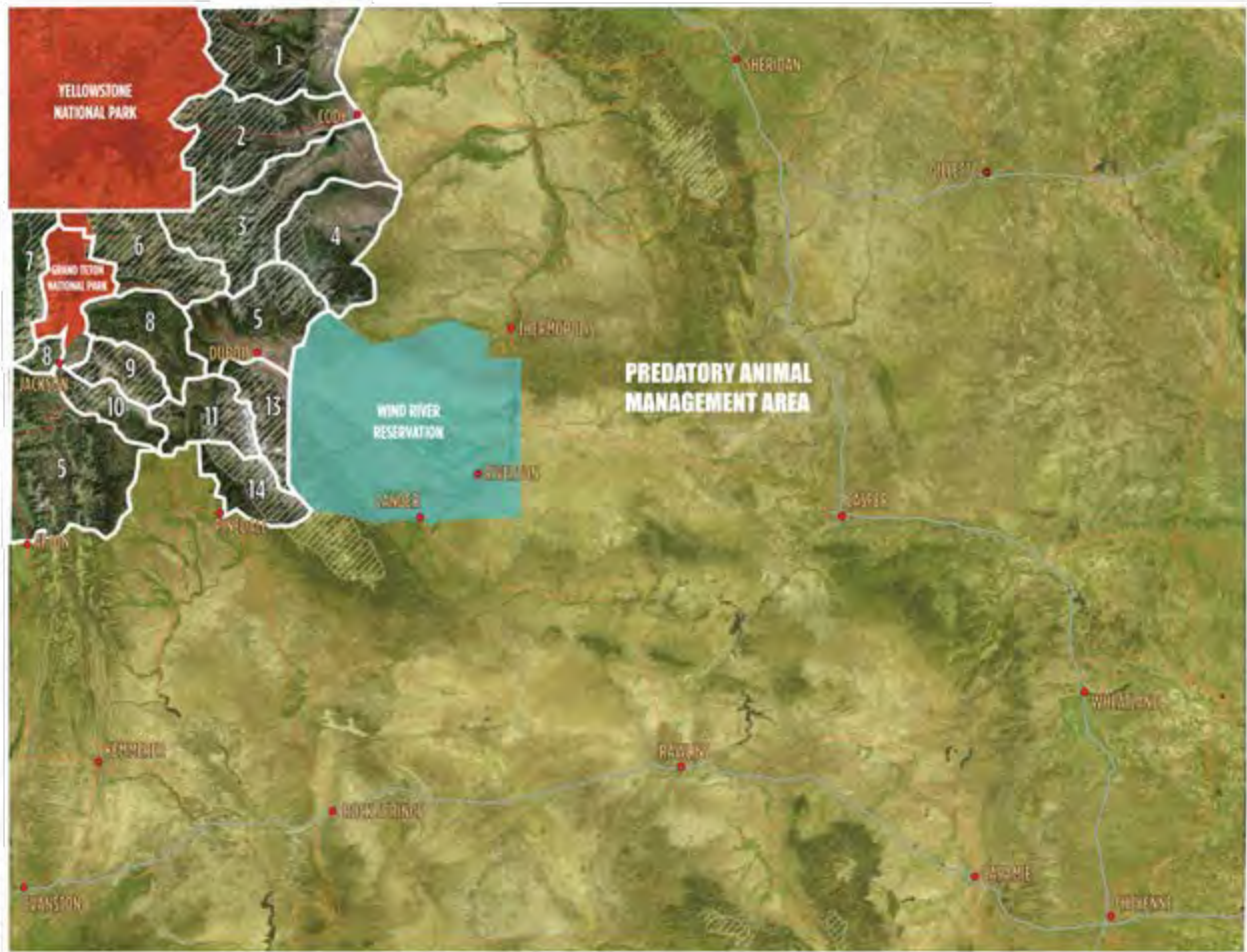
Harvest quotas may be established for each WMU. In WMUs with a harvest quota, when a hunting season quota is reached, the hunting season will close upon a 24-hour notice, but no later than March 15, 2018, except that WMUs 110, 313, and 316 will close on 12-hour notice. Quotas and regulations vary by district, check regulations for district specific information.

## WOLF PACK LOCATIONS





# WYOMING WOLF HUNTING



Note: Wilderness Area, Non-Residents Must Have Guides

TRIBAL LANDS    PREDATOR ZONE    NATIONAL PARKS AND REFUGES

<b>DEPARTMENT:</b> Wyoming Game and Fish		<b>ADDRESS:</b> 5400 Bishop Blvd.
<b>CITY:</b> Cheyenne	<b>STATE:</b> WY	<b>ZIP:</b> 82006-0001
<b>PHONE:</b> 307-777-4600	<b>WEBSITE:</b> wgfd.wyo.gov	

Gray Wolves are designated as predatory animals in all areas of Wyoming outside of Hunt Areas 1-11, 13 and 14, except those areas of the state listed in Section 4(a) on Page 13 of the Wyoming Wolf Hunting Regulations. Gray Wolves within Hunt Areas 1-11, 13 and 14, are designated as trophy game animals. For Hunt Area 12, please refer to Section 4(j) on Page 15 of the regulations for specific information regarding the Gray Wolf designation. Refer to Section 8 on Page 18 of the regulations regarding the taking of Gray Wolves designated as predatory animals.

**Regulations:** [https://wgfd.wyo.gov/Regulations/Regulation-PDFs/REGULATIONS\\_CH47\\_BROCHURE.pdf](https://wgfd.wyo.gov/Regulations/Regulation-PDFs/REGULATIONS_CH47_BROCHURE.pdf)

**Wolf Harvest Summary/Quota:** [https://wgfd.wyo.gov/WGFD/media/content/PDF/Hunting/WOLF\\_SUMMARY.pdf](https://wgfd.wyo.gov/WGFD/media/content/PDF/Hunting/WOLF_SUMMARY.pdf)

Season Dates			
Hunt Area	Opens	Closes	Mortality Quota
1	Oct. 1	Dec. 31	7
2	Oct. 1	Dec. 31	8
3	Oct. 1	Dec. 31	5
4	Oct. 1	Dec. 31	4
5	Oct. 1	Dec. 31	3
6, 7	Oct. 1	Dec. 31	3
7, 8, 11	Oct. 1	Dec. 31	15
10	Oct. 1	Dec. 31	5
12*	Oct. 15	Dec. 31	2
13	Sept 1	Dec 31	5
14	Sept 1	Dec 31	1
Remainder of the State	Open Year-Round		Unlimited

\* Refer to regs for wolf designation





TAYLOR ENGUM, WOLF, WYOMING  
EAST FORK OUTFITTERS

## Wyoming License and Stamp Fees

Resident Gray Wolf	\$21
Nonresident Gray Wolf	\$187
Annual Conservation Stamp	\$12.50
Wildlife Damage Management Stamp	\$10

On April 25, 2017 a court mandate returned management of Gray wolves to the State of Wyoming. Some areas being designated as trophy areas with limited quotas and much of the state open to hunting year-round with no quota. At the time of this printing, there have been 36 wolves taken as predatory animals in the open area of the state and 9 of the 11 trophy zones are still open with part of the quota unfilled. The trophy zones have seasons that come to an end by December 31, but most of the state is open year-round.

Wolves outside the Trophy Game Management Area are now considered predatory animals, as defined in state law, and therefore can be harvested. Game and Fish does not manage wolves outside the Trophy Game Management Area. Gray wolves designated as trophy game animals shall only be taken during open Gray wolf hunting seasons with legal firearms and archery equipment as set forth in Commission regulation, except as otherwise provided by Wyoming statutes.

**Predatory Animals:** Wolves defined as predatory animals are wolves outside of the managed wolf units, wolves in Yellowstone National Park and in the the Wind River Reservation, except on non-Indian owned fee titled lands.

**Hunting Hours:** Gray wolves may only be taken from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

**Bag Limit:** The bag and possession limits for any person

with a proper license shall be one Gray wolf during any one calendar year. Licensed hunters may take any Gray wolf.

**Evidence of Sex:** Visible external evidence of sex shall remain naturally attached to the pelt. The pelt and skull shall be presented in an unfrozen condition to allow collection of biological samples and to determine the age and sex of the Gray wolf.

**Reporting:** Any wolf harvested in the predator zone must be reported to the Game and Fish within 10 days of harvest; this can be done by phone. Game and Fish would like to obtain a genetic sample from each harvested wolf.

Hunters taking a Gray wolf in the hunt areas described in Section 6 shall retain the pelt and skull from each Gray wolf for registration purposes. Even if the skull is damaged, it shall accompany the pelt for registration purposes.

Within 24 hours after taking a Gray wolf, the licensee shall report the taking of a Gray wolf by calling toll free 1-800-264-1280. The report shall include the name and phone number of the person making the report, hunter's name and license number, date of the kill, and location of the site of kill to include hunt area.

Within three days after taking a Gray wolf, the licensee taking the Gray wolf shall present the pelt and skull to a district game warden, district wildlife biologist, or Department personnel at a Game and Fish Department Regional Office, during business hours, for registration. The licensee shall provide his license number, date of kill, and location of the site of kill to include hunt area, section, township and range or UTM coordinates.





## ELK & ANTELOPE

<b>DEPARTMENT:</b> Arizona Game and Fish		<b>ADDRESS:</b> 5000 W. Carefree Highway	
<b>CITY:</b> Phoenix	<b>STATE:</b> AZ	<b>ZIP:</b> 85086	
<b>PHONE:</b> 602-942-3000		<b>WEBSITE:</b> www.azgfd.gov	

Resident and Nonresident Tag/License/ Stamps Required and Fees:				
License/ Permit	Resident	Resident Youth*	Nonresident	Nonresident Youth*
Combination Hunt/Fish	\$57	\$5	\$160	\$5
General Hunting	\$37	N/A	N/A	N/A
Bonus Point Only	\$13	\$13	\$15	\$15
Antelope	\$103	\$103	\$565	\$565
Elk	\$148	\$148 \$63 for youth only hunts	\$665	\$665 \$65 for youth only hunts

Prices shown include a \$13 application fee for residents and \$15 application fee for nonresidents.  
\* Youth 10-17 years of age.

Application Deadlines	
Deadline to apply Online	Feb 12, 2019 11:59 Arizona time
Deadline to apply using Paper Applications	Jan 15, 2019 7:00 PM Arizona time
Deadline to update Credit/Debit cards and to purchase Point Guard	Feb 28, 2019 11:59 PM Arizona Time
Hunt Permit-tags mailed out by	April 5, 2019

**New Changes for 2019:** There are a few changes in regards to the elk hunts. Units 1, 2B, 2C; and 6B will have an early rifle rut season this year. The early rifle seasons in unit 9 and 27 were swapped to an early muzzleloader rut season. The early rifle season in unit 6A was cut along with the early muzzleloader season in 7 West. The early rifle season in unit 3A/3C will take place before the early archery hunt. Tag quotas in some of the antelope hunts were reduced, due to a decrease in the populations in certain areas. Reductions in some antelope populations are chalked up in large part to the severe drought. See the species write up and hunt tables later in this section for the details.

**Application Deadlines and Draw Results:** The application period for elk and antelope opens in mid-January with the actual online application deadline of February 12, 2019. For applicants applying on paper, the applications

must be received in department offices by January 15, 2019. The next application period for deer, Bighorn sheep, and bison opens in early May and the deadline will be in June of 2019. There is also a second application period for bison permits that occurs in October each year. Applicants may check their draw results by logging into their portal account at <https://accounts.azgfd.com/>. If you don't have an account set up, you will need to click on "Register" and set one up. You may also check the results by calling 602-942-3000 once draw results are available in April.

**Application Instructions/How to Apply:** Applicants may apply online by logging into your portal account or by going to <https://www.azgfd.com/Hunting/Draw> or you may apply using paper applications and mailing the applications to any Arizona Game and Fish office. They are phasing out paper applications, which is evident as the application deadlines for paper and online applications are nearly a month apart. We highly recommend applying online to reduce the risk of errors. Online applicants do not have to front the tag fees when applying. Hunters may also apply over the phone during business hours.

If applying on paper, applicants must submit the entire

**DISCLAIMER:** This information is pertinent to 2019 applications and is to be used as a general reference only. Refer to the official state regulations when applying in the state draw.



permit and hunting license fees (if needed) by way of certified check, cashier's check, money order, or personal check made payable to Arizona Game and Fish Department. Refer to the regulations for specific paper application instructions. The PointGuard Program (explained later) is not available for applicants applying on paper.

Arizona requires applicants to purchase a nonrefundable hunting license prior to, or at the time of, applying. These licenses are valid for one year from the date of purchase but must be valid on the last day of the application period you are applying for. If applying online, each species requires a minimal \$13 resident application fee and a \$15 nonresident application fee on top of the mandatory purchase of a hunting license. If successful, online applicants will automatically be charged for the species tag fee to the credit card they used at the time of application.

**How the Draw System Works:** In Arizona, the first and second hunt choices are considered before moving on to the next applicant. Choices 3-5 on the application are only considered if tags remain for any hunts after all applicants' first and second hunt choices have been considered. One thing to be aware of is that your bonus points revert to zero if you draw any of your five choices.

**Bonus Points/Preference Point System:** Arizona issues bonus points to unsuccessful applicants each year they apply in the draw. Arizona reserves a maximum of 20% of the hunt permit-tags, for each hunt number, for antelope and elk to issue to persons who have bonus points. Applicants with the highest number of bonus points that apply for a particular hunt code as either their 1st or 2nd choice will be considered for the 20% set

aside "bonus point" tags. The remaining 80% of the tags are then issued in a random draw. For every bonus point an applicant has they will have an additional name in hat for tags being issued in the random draw.

For nonresidents, up to half of the nonresident quota may be issued to applicants in the bonus point draw and at least half will be issued randomly. When processing a group application, they will use the average number of bonus points accumulated by all applicants in the group, rounded to the nearest whole number. If the average number of bonus points is equal to, or greater than .5, the total will be rounded to the next higher number. Bonus points are not transferable and are species specific only and not unit or weapon specific.

Arizona will award one permanent bonus point for each species upon a person's graduation from a Department-sanctioned Arizona hunter education course. Contact the Arizona Game and Fish for a list of dates and available courses. You must travel to Arizona and take their course to obtain the permanent hunter education point.

Arizona also issues "loyalty" bonus points for applicants who apply for five consecutive years for a particular species. If an applicant skips one year of applying for the respective species, that loyalty point will be deleted. A loyalty bonus point is accrued in addition to all other bonus points.

**Resident/Nonresident Quotas:** Nonresidents are limited to no more than 10%, rounded down, of the total tags issued per hunt code for bull elk only and antelope. For tags good for cow elk or "any elk", there is no quota limitations in regards to residency. For hunt numbers



ED BROWN, ELK, ARIZONA  
BIG CHINO GUIDE SERVICE



SCOTT SALZETTI, ANTELOPE, ARIZONA  
HIGH POINT OUTFITTERS



with less than 10 total tags, not more than one tag may be issued to nonresidents.

No more than 50% of the available nonresident quota in each hunt number for elk and antelope may be issued in the initial preference point draw for the 20% bonus point permits. At least half of the nonresident quota will be divvied out in the random draw. For example, in a unit with 100 total permits available, of the 10 available nonresident permits, no more than five could be issued in the preference point draw and the other five will be issued in the random draw. If there is only one nonresident tag, it will be allocated in the random draw. Bonus points will revert to zero if an applicant is successful in the draw or fails to apply for a genus for five consecutive years.

**PointGuard Program:** In 2016, Arizona introduced a new program called "PointGuard," which essentially will allow hunters to surrender their hunt permit-tag, for any reason, without losing their bonus points and they will actually gain a point as if they were never drawn. PointGuard is only available to applicants who apply online for a hunt permit-tag and sign up for a free Arizona Game and Fish Portal account prior to applying. Applicants applying on paper cannot participate in the PointGuard program. To participate in the PointGuard program the cost is \$5 per species, per applicant, purchased at the time of completing the online application, or prior to the application period deadline. Hunters who surrender their permits will not get a refund of the permit fee. Only one hunt permit-tag may be surrendered, per species. If an applicant is drawn in the future for that particular species, that hunt permit-tag must be used and bonus points will revert to zero. Visit <https://www.azgfd.com/hunting/pointguard> for more information. To use PointGuard, be sure to use the same email when applying that you set up your portal with.

**Waiting Periods:** There are no waiting periods if drawn for elk or antelope.

**Group Applications:** No more than four people may apply on one application. All applicants in a group must apply for the same hunt number(s) and in the same order of preference. Be aware of low tag quotas and nonresident 10% tag limitations before considering applying as a group. In some cases, even groups of two are not eligible to draw where only 2 or fewer nonresident tags are available. This is because one permit may be issued in the maximum bonus point draw, before the random draw occurs. The Department will not issue a tag to any group member unless sufficient tags are available for all group members.

When processing a group application, they will use the average number of bonus points accumulated by all of the applicants in the group and will round to the nearest



JARED TINDLE, ELK, ARIZONA  
PREMIUM HUNTS

whole number. If the average number of points is .5 then they will round up.

**Youth Applications/Fees:** Arizona gives a significant price reduction for youth combination hunt/fish licenses of \$5 for ages 10-17, making it very economical to start applying youth in Arizona. Once hunters turn 18, they must purchase full price licenses and permits.

**Hunter Education Requirements:** While you must be 10 years of age to hunt big game you may complete hunter education at the age of 9. However, the hunter education completion card and certificate does not become valid until the child's 10th birthday. Youth big game hunters need a hunter education card to hunt. They do not need a hunter education card to apply for the draw. Youth hunters can purchase a hunting license without having attended hunter education.

**Age Restrictions:** No one under age 10 may hunt big game in Arizona. A youth is eligible to apply for a hunt permit-tag if the person is at least 10 years of age at the start of the hunt for which the person is applying and has successfully completed a department-sanctioned hunter education course. A youth may apply for a bonus point only if the person is at least 10 years of age by the application deadline for the species being applied for.

**Tag Transfers and Options Once Drawn:** Arizona has a great tag transfer program for youth and disabled military veterans. A tag can only be transferred or donated from a parent, grandparent, or guardian to their minor child or grandchild up until they turn 18 years old as long as they accompany them in the field. Go to <https://www.azgfd.com/Hunting/TagTransfer> for more information.



## WEAPON RESTRICTIONS

**Archery:** Bows must have a draw weight of greater than 30 pounds (40 for bison) and use broadheads no less than 7/8 inch in diameter with metal cutting edges.

**Muzzleloaders:** May be used with magnified scopes and use black powder or synthetic black powder.

**Rifles:** Must be centerfire.

During a general (rifle hunt) any weapon may be used. During muzzleloader hunts, hunters may use muzzleloaders or bow and arrows. Archery hunts are limited to bows and arrows. Crossbows may only be used if certain medical conditions exist and an AZGFD crossbow permit is obtained.

**Landowner Tags:** Arizona has no landowner tag program.

**Raffle and Auction Tags:** The Arizona Game and Fish Commission has awarded the Arizona Big Game Super Raffle (AZBGSR) 10 Special Big Game Tags, one each for the 10 big game species in Arizona. The lucky winners enjoy a 365 day season. Dates are August 15 through August 14 of the next year and include most units statewide. 100% of the proceeds from these tags will be used to complete wildlife projects in Arizona. Go to [www.arizonabiggamesuperraffle.com](http://www.arizonabiggamesuperraffle.com) to purchase tickets, or if you have any questions. Tickets will be available for purchase online through July 14th. Mail in entries must be received by July 12th. The drawing will take place July 25th.

Arizona also offers statewide auction permits, per species, that are auctioned at banquets held by approved wildlife conservation organizations. Funds from the sale of these permits are used for habitat and other wildlife related projects and research throughout Arizona. See Page 30 of this magazine for more information on raffle and auction tags.

## OUR TAKE ON ARIZONA

It's time to start thinking about applying in Arizona for elk and antelope tags. There are three different application periods depending on the species you are applying for. The first application period deals with elk and antelope. The second application period is for sheep, deer, and bison. The third application period is for spring turkey and bison.

Arizona is definitely what we consider a "must apply for" state when it comes to elk and trophy antelope hunting. There are many different season options for elk including everything from trophy seasons with great dates and limited tags to late season dates with hundreds of tags. The number of bonus points it takes to draw a nonresident tag range from 3 to 23 so there is literally something for everyone to apply for.

Arizona has a good bonus point system. They issue 20% of the total number of tags to people who have the most bonus points. The remaining 80% of the tags are given to the remaining applicants on a random draw basis. Nonresidents are limited to 10% of the total number of tags within a unit's quota and up to half of the nonresident quota is available to applicants with the most points accumulated. The remaining tags are issued in the random draw and may be drawn by either residents or nonresidents. If there is only 1 total nonresident tag available then it will be drawn from the random draw pool. The random draw pool allows people who do not have very many points built up for elk or antelope a chance to draw a tag. In regards to the random drawing odds, residents and nonresidents are in the same draw pool unless nonresidents reach their tag quota at which time only residents will be able to draw the remaining tags.

As you will see in the tables, we have listed the number of points it took to draw the bonus point tags for both residents and nonresidents. We also include the draw odds for drawing the random tags as well. The random odds in our table are calculated by taking the number of total applicants minus the tags drawn in the max point draw and then divided by the number of tags left in the draw. Nonresidents and residents are in this random draw pool together and are both eligible to draw a tag unless nonresidents have met their tag quota after which only residents will be drawn.

Anytime there are less than 10 total tags for a particular hunt, nonresidents are able to draw up to one total tag which would be distributed in the random draw. All elk and antelope hunters should, at the very least, apply for "points only" and prep for the future if you'd like to draw a tag down the road.

When you get to the hunt tables in this section, you will notice that we did not include the actual hunt codes used to apply in this magazine. Please refer to the regulations for hunt codes when applying. It's now time to dive into the detailed information for elk and antelope.

Arizona Resources	
Epic Hunt Planner	<a href="https://epicoutdoorsmember.com/index.asp">https://epicoutdoorsmember.com/index.asp</a>
Maps	<a href="https://epicoutdoors.com/services/map-center/">https://epicoutdoors.com/services/map-center/</a>
Arizona BLM maps	602-417-9200
Arizona U.S. Forest Service maps	505-842-3292
Arizona Game and Fish Department hunting regulations	<a href="http://www.azgfd.com/Hunting/Regulations">www.azgfd.com/Hunting/Regulations</a>
Unit Resources	<a href="https://www.azgfd.com/Hunting/Units/">https://www.azgfd.com/Hunting/Units/</a>



## ARIZONA BIG GAME UNIT MAP





## ELK

Arizona always comes to mind when it comes to elk hunting. Generally, Arizona is known as one of the very best states when it comes to trophy hunting and giant bulls! Arizona does a great job of allowing for plenty of hunting opportunity, by issuing the bulk of the elk tags in any given unit to late season hunters, after the rut has occurred. This management strategy allows the state to divvy out hundreds of tags without decimating the elk populations as the seasons occur when the elk are the least vulnerable to hunters. Many hunters who want quality bulls argue that in many cases there are too many tags issued in many of the units to maintain or increase quality to their desired level. We here at Epic Outdoors do a ton of research and talk to many different hunters and outfitters who hunt Arizona every year and agree with them that over zealous tag numbers are negatively impacting quality.

One thing for sure is that this past hunting season was one of the worst seasons for producing trophy bulls that hunters have seen in many years. Going into the hunting season, everyone that is "in the know" predicted a tough year for antler growth, due to the lack of moisture this past winter and early spring. As the hunts transpired, it was evident that the predictions of a lack of trophy quality were correct. There were many springs, tanks, and ponds that dried up early in the year that usually never dry up. The feed quality took a major hit which



SEAN PITTS, ELK, ARIZONA  
BURNT TIMBER OUTFITTERS

significantly impacted antler growth. For this exact reason, we recommend that everyone take advantage of the PointGuard program that has recently been instilled. The PointGuard program allows hunters to turn back their tags one time, for any reason, and get all their bonus points back. There were many tags turned back this year once the lack of antler growth was confirmed.

That being said, we are obviously excited to turn the calendar to a new year in Arizona. Very rarely does a state experience two years in a row of extreme drought. Arizona is a state that hunters of all types should be applying for and gaining bonus points, even if you only apply for "points only." There are many different seasons to choose from in Arizona from early archery, rifle and muzzleloader seasons, to late rifle, muzzleloader, and archery seasons. Big bulls can be taken on any season and the later the season dates, the better the odds of drawing a tag, generally speaking.

The best trophy producing units in the state are units that border either Indian reservations and/or Grand Canyon National Park, which include units 12B 2C, 3A 3C, 9, 10, 23 North, 23 South, and unit 27. The surrounding reservations and parks also help supply the units with elk that travel back and forth. There are other great units across the state which we have covered in our tables as well. The number of points you have and the weapon you want to hunt with will dictate which unit and season you should apply for.

The most popular hunts in the state will continue to be the early rifle/muzzleloader seasons which occur in a variety of units from September 27 - October 3rd this year. We list all of the early season options in the hunt tables. These seasons have very limited tag numbers and occur during the rut. The odds of drawing an early season tag will always be super tough.

### Elk Bonus Points going into the 2019 draw

Points	Residents	Nonresidents	Total
1	133,652	16,912	150,564
2	40,151	6,015	46,166
3	23,967	3,843	27,810
4	14,592	1,848	16,440
5	9,350	2,260	11,610
6	6,277	1,960	8,237
7	3,772	1,460	5,232
8	2,229	1,418	3,647
9	1,444	1,418	2,592
10	918	866	1,784
11	572	803	1,375
12	439	691	1,130
13	333	619	952
14	272	657	929
15	222	555	777
16	199	347	546
17	192	295	487
18	144	238	382
19	139	185	324
20	90	158	248
21	49	134	183
22	36	66	102
23	19	46	65
24	6	21	27
25	3	7	10
26	1	0	1
27	0	1	1
28	0	0	0
29	0	1	1





FRED GRICE, ELK, ARIZONA  
PREMIUM HUNTS



MARCIE FRANCO, ELK, ARIZONA  
BURN'T TIMBER OUTFITTERS

The archery hunt in September seems to produce the lion's share of the trophy bulls harvested each year in Arizona. The season dates in most cases this year are September 13-26, with the exception of units 3A, 3C which is September 20-October 3 and the 2nd hunt in unit 11M which is Sept 27-Oct 10. Archery elk hunts in the rut in Arizona offer a great opportunity to harvest a great bull for a number of reasons. Due to the rut season dates you'll hunt bulls that have a better chance of not having broken antlers like the majority of them do, by the late archery, muzzleloader, and rifle seasons. Another reason is that archery hunters also get first crack at the bulls each year with the exception of units 3A, 3C which have an early rifle hunt that starts Sept 13 which is the same day that most of the archery hunts start.

The late archery, muzzleloader, and rifle hunts in November and December are hunts that, in theory, can issue more tags and have less of an impact on the elk herds, due to the season dates being after the rut. These seasons also provide opportunities for hunters to draw a tag and hunt more often than they otherwise would be able to, as the drawing odds are much better than the early hunts. There are always few great bulls taken on the late seasons by a few hunters but, for the most part, the average size of bull harvested is definitely smaller than that found in the early seasons as the big bulls are less active than they are during the rut and are much less vulnerable.

The late rifle hunts are generally much easier to draw than most of the other seasons in the state. Nonresident hunters with 6-10 bonus points have a realistic chance of getting drawn and being able to rifle hunt fairly often, compared to the premium season dates. The better late rifle hunts in the state in our opinion are in units 1 2B

2C, 10, 23, and 27. Other units such as 3A 3C, and unit 8 have some great bulls in them and may be worth looking at applying for as well. Unit 8 has some extremely thick country and is a physical unit, generally speaking, but with the help of an outfitter, good optics, and the ability to shoot long range, it could be a hunt worth applying for, depending on your fall schedule and bonus point level.

For muzzleloader hunters who are willing to hunt late season, unit 10 offers a muzzleloader season of November 8-14, which is after the early rut seasons, but before the late rifle hunt in December. Hunters seem to find a few good bulls during this week-long season. For archers that are willing to work hard and aren't set on hunting the rut, you may consider applying for the November hunt in unit 23. It is a glassable hunt that usually provides multiple spot and stalk opportunities for aggressive hunters. This hunt will be somewhat physical and it won't be easy to kill a big bull, but is easy to draw and is one of the better units in the state. Unit 10 also has a late archery hunt, but it takes place the day after the late muzzleloader hunt ends. It won't be a great hunt, especially after the muzzleloader season just ended.

There are a few significant changes to be aware of for the early rifle and muzzleloader seasons. Arizona now has a early season rifle hunt in unit 1, 2B, 2C that was a muzzleloader hunt during this same time frame last year. It rotates from a muzzleloader season to a rifle season and visa versa on a yearly basis. Unit 6B also popped up this year as having an early rifle season. The last year this season was available in unit 6B was in 2015. We expect a few good bulls will be harvested, but hunting in 6B is never considered easy. It is a fairly physically demanding



unit. The early rifle season in unit 6A was omitted and the early rifle seasons in units 9, and 27 were rotated into the early muzzleloader season for this year. The early muzzleloader season in Unit 7 West was pulled out for this year.

The archery seasons stayed nearly the same as last year with very few changes. One of the changes that did happen is that unit 3A,3C archery season was adjusted to Sept 20-Oct 3, which is after the early rifle hunt, for this year only. This archery hunt will be during peak rut and the first 5 days, or so, will be the critical time to get the job done since as the season progresses hunters will find that more and more bulls will be broken up. We expect that several of the top bulls that exist in unit 3A,3C will be taken in the early rifle hunt, before the archery season even starts.

Arizona categorizes some of the hunts into a "Limited Opportunity" section of the regulations. Some of these hunts have the potential to produce a giant bull, but they usually have very low elk densities and/or have private land access issues in the prime elk habitat areas. If you apply for these units, do so with caution, knowing

they are in this category for a reason. As with any tag drawn, some due diligence prior to applying will help you be successful on your hunt and not waste any points that might have been used in drawing a tag. We have included what we consider to be the better hunting opportunities in our hunt tables.

Keep in mind that tags drawn on any of the choices will cost you the bonus points accumulated thus far, with the exception of loyalty and hunter education points. Remember that your first 2 choices will be considered before moving on to the next applicant and after everyone's first 2 choices are considered, then the remaining tags will be issued to applicants' 3-5 choices.

The quality of bulls in Arizona have definitely been better. Between drought and liberal tag numbers across the board, the quality is about as tough as we've seen it, in the past 20 years. We are not saying that there aren't a few giant bulls taken in Arizona every year, but on average it has been better.

Overall, if you like to hunt elk, you should be applying in Arizona! Review the tables carefully and apply!

### Any Weapon Elk - Early Rut Hunts

Legal weapons include Rifle, Muzzleloader, and Bow

Unit	Season Dates 2019	Total Number of tags 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015	# of Potential Nonresident Random Tags / Max Point Draw Tags- 2019	Harvest Success 2017 2016 2015 2014 2013	Resident/ Nonresident Random Drawing odds - 2018	Nonresident -Points needed to draw a tag in the bonus point draw- 2018	Resident -Points needed to draw a tag in the bonus point draw- 2018	Our take on the hunt:
1, 2B, 2C	Sept 27 - Oct 3	40 N/A 40 N/A 40	2/2	92% N/A 93% N/A 100%	Hunt wasn't available in 2018	Hunt wasn't available in 2018 Expect it to take at least 22 pts to draw	Hunt wasn't available in 2018 Expect it to take at least 20 pts to draw	Was a muzzleloader hunt during this time frame last year. Drawing odds will be very tough. Some burned country, some classic elk habitat, and some high elevation country. A lot of thick country as well as some glassable country. High elk densities, great rut hunt for 310-340"+ bulls.
3A, 3C	Sept 13 - 19	25 25 25 25 25	1/1	90% 100% 96% 80% 93%	1 in 272	At least 22 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 20 points needed to draw a tag	Earlier season for 2019. Takes place before the archery hunt, for this year only. Great hunt for 330-340"+ bulls and a few 360"+ bulls on the unit. The best bulls may be harvested during this season. 3C borders White Mtn. Apache Reservation. Good populations of elk. Burned country with plenty of good access and public land.
6B	Sept 27 - Oct 3	25 N/A N/A N/A 25	1/1	N/A N/A 84% N/A N/A	Hunt wasn't available in 2018	Hunt wasn't available in 2018	Hunt wasn't available in 2018	New early rifle season offered for 2019. The last year this season was available was in 2015 and there were 1,024 total 1st choice applicants for 25 tags. Can be physical with a lot of wilderness country. Public land with some main access in the unit. Rifle rut hunt for 300-320"+ bulls.
7 East - Kachina Peaks Wilderness	Sept 27 - Oct 3	30 30 New Hunt as of 2018	2/1	N/A New Hunt as of 2018	1 in 14	At least 14 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 10 points needed to draw a tag	The unit boundary was adjusted in 2018 and is now a true wilderness hunt. This basic unit was listed in the limited opportunity section last year. Brutal hunt, with very limited trophy potential. Expect a physically tough hunt for small bulls.



## Any Weapon Elk - Early Rut Hunts

Legal weapons include Rifle, Muzzleloader, and Bow

Unit	Season Dates 2019	Total Number of tags 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015	# of Potential Nonresident Random Tags / Max Point Draw Tags- 2019	Harvest Success 2017 2016 2015 2014 2013	Resident/ Nonresident Random Drawing odds - 2018	Nonresident -Points needed to draw a tag in the bonus point draw- 2018	Resident -Points needed to draw a tag in the bonus point draw- 2018	Our take on the hunt:
10	Sept 27 - Oct 3	40 40 40 40 100	2/2	78% 87% 73% 69% 68%	1 in 188	At least 23 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 21 pts needed to draw a tag	<b>One of the best early rifle hunts in the state.</b> Overall tag reductions have been helping this unit. Can be a great hunt for 340-360"+ bulls, but also can be hit and miss. A good portion of the unit is the Boquillas Ranch which allows public access for a minimal trespass fee. Big unit with some flat country and broken mountain terrain. Plenty of road access. The west side Borders Hualapai Reservation.
22 North	Sept 27 - Oct 3	30 30 30 30 30	2/1	80% 80% 93% 77% 80%	1 in 96	At least 19 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 17 pts needed to draw a tag	This unit has been over-hunted for years on the later rifle hunts. Quality has plummeted but there are always a couple good bulls. Expect 280- 320" class bulls on this hunt. Public land with good access throughout.
23 North	Sept 27 - Oct 3	15 15 15 15 15	1/0	77% 80% 93% 80% 95%	1 in 286	No tag available to NR in the bonus point draw	At least 21 pts needed to draw a tag	<b>One of the best early rifle hunts in the state.</b> Incredible hunt with very little hunting pressure. 350-360"+ bulls, public land with good access throughout. Borders White Mtn Reservation. One of the best hunts in the state. Some flat, thick country with plenty of elk.
23 South	Sept 27 - Oct 3	5 5 5 5 5	1/0	100% 100% 100% N/A N/A	1 in 340	No tag available to NR in the bonus point draw	At least 22 pts needed to draw a tag	<b>One of the best early rifle hunts in the state.</b> Usually a great hunt with very few tags. 340-360"+ bulls. Amazing hunt with some of the biggest bulls in the state being on this unit from year to year. Public land with decent access. Can be physical, hunters should be in good shape. Does not have high elk populations. This early rifle hunt started in 2015.

BOB GUY, ELK, ARIZONA  
HIGH POINT OUTFITTERSMIKE LYNCH, ELK, ARIZONA  
GOODMAN OUTFITTERS



## Any Weapon General Elk - Late Season Hunts

Legal weapons include Rifle, Muzzleloader, and Bow

Unit	Season Dates 2019	Total Number of tags 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015	# of Potential Nonresident Random Tags / Max Point Draw Tags- 2019	Harvest Success 2017-2013	Resident/ Nonresident Random Drawing odds - 2018	Nonresident -Points needed to draw a tag in the bonus point draw- 2018	Resident -Points needed to draw a tag in the bonus point draw- 2018	Our take on the hunt:
1, 2B, 2C	Nov 29-Dec 5	375 375 325 325 325	19/18	79% 77% 70% 65% 50%	1 in 25	At least 10 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 8 pts needed to draw a tag	Good hunt for being late season. Plenty of elk but a lot of hunting pressure as well. A lot of burned country as well as some classic elk habitat. A lot of thick country, but has plenty of glassable country. Good hunt for 310-330"+ bulls. Great success rates. Some bulls move into unit 27 by this hunt.
3A, 3C	Nov 29-Dec 5	300 300 275 275 275	15/15	35% 47% 42% 42% 27%	1 in 11	At least 7 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 7 pts needed to draw a tag	Good unit with plenty of elk. Unit 3C borders White Mtn. Apache Reservation. 300-320"+ bulls. Can be a tougher hunt with pressure. Burned country with plenty of good access and public land.
4A	Nov 29-Dec 5	316 316 253 253 268	16/15	32% 41% 33% 39% 19%	1 in 7	At least 6 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 6 pts needed to draw a tag	A lot of pressure for average bulls. Some 300"+ bulls. A lot of bulls winter here. Some flat, thick country as well as some glassable canyons. Public land with good access.
4B	Nov 29-Dec 5	150 150 150 150 175	8/7	47% 36% 21% 21% 16%	1 in 9	At least 6 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 6 pts needed to draw a tag	Usually not a good hunt. Flat thick public land makes for a tough late elk hunt. Low success rates. 250-300" class bulls. Not real high elk densities.
5A	Nov 29-Dec 5	339 339 388 412 315	17/16	31% 25% 33% 34% 20%	1 in 7	At least 6 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 5 pts needed to draw a tag	High elk populations but a lot of hunting pressure. Decent hunt for 260-320" type bulls. Thick country, not an easy hunt. Public land with good access.
5B	Nov 29-Dec 5	639 639 614 590 590	32/31	38% 49% 37% 42% 28%	1 in 13	At least 7 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 6 pts needed to draw a tag	Not a great hunt. Good elk populations but also has very high tag numbers. Always a few 300-320+" bulls. High desert, rolling hills, flats with treed country. Good glassing country, plenty of public land and good access.
6A	Nov 29-Dec 5	700 700 700 700 825	35/35	37% 40% 36% 29% 38%	1 in 15	At least 7 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 6 pts needed to draw a tag	Good populations of elk with plenty of bulls. Big unit with extremely thick country. Some glassable canyon country with good potential for 300-320"+ bulls. Good access with some wilderness as well. Tough season, bulls will be archery and muzzleloader hunted just prior to this season.
6B	Nov 29-Dec 5	175 175 175 175 130	9/8	51% 54% 32% 44% 47%	1 in 9	At least 6 pts needed to draw a tag	at least 5 pts needed to draw a tag	Usually a pretty tough hunt, fair amount of physical country. Expect 280-310" type bulls. Public land with some good access as well as some wilderness country.
7 East	Nov 29-Dec 5	450 450 550 550 550	23/22	13% 19% 27% 25% 28%	1 in 3	At least 4 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 4 pts needed to draw a tag	Average hunt for 260-320" class bulls. Good elk populations, a lot of tags and hunting pressure. Good public land access with some rolling hills and flat country.



## Any Weapon General Elk - Late Season Hunts

Legal weapons include Rifle, Muzzleloader, and Bow

Unit	Season Dates 2019	Total Number of tags 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015	# of Potential Nonresident Random Tags / Max Point Draw Tags- 2019	Harvest Success 2017-2013	Resident/ Nonresident Random Drawing odds - 2018	Nonresident -Points needed to draw a tag in the bonus point draw- 2018	Resident -Points needed to draw a tag in the bonus point draw- 2018	Our take on the hunt:
7 East Kachina Peaks Wilderness	Oct 4-10	30 30 New Hunt as of 2018	2/1	N/A New Hunt as of 2018	1 in 10	At least 7 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 6 pts needed to draw a tag	Second rifle season in this unit. Rut is winding down. Hunt was listed in the limited opportunity section last year. The boundary has been adjusted and is now a true wilderness hunt. Dates were changed to an earlier season this year. Expect a physically tough hunt for small bulls.
7 West	Nov 29-Dec 5	550 550 500 400 400	28/27	33% 52% 41% 36% 44%	1 in 9	At least 6 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 6 pts needed to draw a tag	Good hunt for solid bulls. This unit borders unit 9 and unit 10 and has some 300-330"+ type bulls. Some glassing country with scattered trees as well as some very physical country. Public land with good access.
8	Nov 29-Dec 5	500 500 500 500 500	25/25	34% 42% 36% 40% 38%	1 in 10	At least 6 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 6 pts needed to draw a tag	Heavily timbered unit with some deep glassable canyons as well. This unit has 320-340"+ bulls in it with potential for better. Not an easy hunt but hunters that are in shape and can shoot long range can do well. Plenty of public land.
9	Nov 29-Dec 5	400 400 325 325 325	20/20	38% 46% 30% 43% 18%	1 in 6	At least 6 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 5 pts needed to draw a tag	Very tough, frustrating hunt for 280-320" class bulls. Thick, flat country with most hunters being disappointed. Tough to glass - not a hunt for trophy hunters. Public land with good access. We recommend an outfitter to make the most of this tag. Quality is poor.
10	Nov 29-Dec 5	350 350 400 500 550	18/17	30% 39% 38% 32% 36%	1 in 9	At least 7 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 6 pts needed to draw a tag	Popular hunt for guys that don't have a lot of points. 310-330" type bulls with potential for better. Expect the majority of the mature bulls to be broken. Public and private land with the Boquillas Ranch allowing public access for a minimal trespass fee. Big unit with some flat country and broken mountain terrain. Borders Hualapai Reservation to the west. Muzzleloader and archery hunts take place just prior to this hunt.
19A	Nov 29-Dec 5	35 35 35 35 35	2/1	66% 51% 69% 48% 54%	1 in 9	At least 7 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 6 pts needed to draw a tag	Relatively low elk densities. A few great bulls. Pinyon-Juniper country that's glassable. Public and private land with decent access. Good harvest rates considering the late season dates.
21	Nov 29-Dec 5	25 25 30 40 30	1/1	41% 39% 70% 44% 50%	1 in 6	At least 6 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 5 pts needed to draw a tag	Low elk densities with mostly 300-320"+ bulls with potential for better. Tough hunt with marginal quality on this season. Some rugged country, public land with decent access. Decent harvest rates.



### Any Weapon General Elk - Late Season Hunts

Legal weapons include Rifle, Muzzleloader, and Bow

Unit	Season Dates 2019	Total Number of tags 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015	# of Potential Nonresident Random Tags / Max Point Draw Tags- 2019	Harvest Success 2017-2013	Resident/ Nonresident Random Drawing odds - 2018	Nonresident -Points needed to draw a tag in the bonus point draw- 2018	Resident -Points needed to draw a tag in the bonus point draw- 2018	Our take on the hunt:
22 North	Nov 29-Dec 5	475 475 475 475 450	24/23	33% 39% 41% 39% 35%	1 in 6	At least 6 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 5 pts needed to draw a tag	A lot of tags, tough to find a good bull. Mostly raghorns to 260" class bulls. A lot of hunting pressure, small bulls, public land with good access. Unit has been over hunted for years. Don't expect a quality hunt.
22 North	Dec 6-12	400 400 375 375 375	20/20	31% 34% 23% 28% 40%	1 in 4	At least 5 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 4 pts needed to draw a tag	Same as above, 2nd late hunt season.
22 South	Nov 29-Dec 5	80 80 80 60 60	4/4	69% 62% 50% 58% 84%	1 in 8	At least 7 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 6 pts needed to draw a tag	Lower elk populations with low tag numbers. Not a great unit for the most part. Small bulls overall with a few decent bulls. Public land unit with good access and can be physically tough.
23	Nov 29-Dec 5	125 125 150 150 200	6/6	56% 73% 63% 51% 47%	1 in 28	At least 11 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 9 pts needed to draw a tag	<b>One of the best late rifle hunts in the state.</b> 320-340"+ bulls with potential for better. Public land with some good access and some of more remote country. A lot of broken bulls. Late archery hunt Nov 15-28 hurts this hunt.
27	Nov 29-Dec 5	460 460 460 460 400	23/23	69% 68% 61% 62% 66%	1 in 13	At least 10 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 7 pts needed to draw a tag	<b>One of the best late rifle hunts in the state.</b> 320-340"+ bulls, great hunt for physically aggressive hunters who like to hunt late season. Broken bulls, rugged country with some vehicle access. Outfitter and/or horses are recommended.



JOE JEOVANNONI, ELK  
ARIZONA



LANDON MARINO, ELK, ARIZONA  
HUNT HARD OUTFITTERS



## Limited Opportunity Rifle Hunts

Unit	Season Dates 2019	Total Number of tags 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015	# of Potential Nonresident Random Tags / Max Point Draw Tags- 2018	Harvest Success 2017-2013	Resident/ Nonresident Random Drawing odds - 2018	Nonresident -Points needed to draw a tag in the bonus point draw- 2018	Resident -Points needed to draw a tag in the bonus point draw- 2018	Our take on the hunt:
15A, 15B, and 18A	Oct 4-17	25 25 25 25 25	1/1	52% 88% 64% 52% 64%	1 in 16	At least 19 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 9 pts needed to draw a tag	Good hunt for 310-330" class bulls with potential for a great bull. Lower elk densities, private land mixed with public. Enough public land to hunt with decent access. Rut will be winding down by this hunt. Outfitter recommended.
15A, 15B, and 18A	Nov 8-Dec 12	150 150 150 150 150	8/7	18% 23% 44% 26% 20%	1 in 3	At least 4 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 3 pts needed to draw a tag	Late hunt, can be tough. Good hunt for 300-320" class bulls with a few great bulls, depending on the year. Lower elk densities, private land mixed with public. Enough public land to hunt with decent access. Outfitter recommended.
17A, 17B, 18B, 19B, 20A, and 20C	Oct 4-17	35 35 35 35 35	2/1	66% 57% 85% 59% 82%	1 in 15	At least 17 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 9 pts needed to draw a tag	Can be great with 320-350"+ bulls. Private and public land but private land is better. Lower densities of elk, potential for a great bull. Hire an outfitter and go on private land for best chance at a great bull. Rut will be slowing down on this hunt.
17A, 17B, 18B, 19B, 20A, and 20C	Nov 8-Dec 12	150 150 150 150 150	8/7	40% 44% 49% 41% 24%	1 in 5	At least 5 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 4 pts needed to draw a tag	Can be good with 320-340"+ bulls with a few bigger in the unit. Private and public land but private land is better. Lower densities of elk, potential for a great bull. Outfitter recommended on private land for best chance at a big bull. Good hunt considering it's a late season.

Limited Opportunity Hunts are listed in the regulations in the limited opportunity section. Beware, these hunts are separated due to private land issues/other access limitations and/or low elk densities.

## Archery Only Elk - Rut Hunts

Unit	Season Dates 2019	Total Number of tags 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015	# of Potential Nonresident Random Tags / Max Point Draw Tags- 2019	Harvest Success 2017-2013	Resident/ Nonresident Random Drawing odds - 2018	Nonresident -Points needed to draw a tag in the bonus point draw- 2018	Resident -Points needed to draw a tag in the bonus point draw- 2018	Our take on the hunt:
1, 2B, 2C	Sept 13-26	300 300 300 300 300	15/15	64% 42% 36% 51% 49%	1 in 25	At least 15 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 11 pts needed to draw a tag	Great hunt with tons of bulls. Some burned country as well as some classic high elevation elk habitat. A lot of thick country as well as plenty of glassable country. High elk densities, great hunt for 320-340"+ bulls. Mostly public land with great access throughout. High populations of elk can make it tough to stalk bulls.
3A, 3C	Sept 20-Oct 3	135 135 125 125 125	7/6	62% 46% 53% 54% 58%	1 in 28	At least 17 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 11 pts needed to draw a tag	This season is later this year and will take place after an early rifle hunt which starts Sept 13th. Usually a good hunt for 320-340"+ bulls with a few 350"+ bulls killed every year. Unit 3C borders White Mtn. Apache reservation. A lot of elk, burned country with plenty of good access and public land.
3B	Sept 13-26	75 75 75 75 75	4/3	51% 47% 21% 39% 39%	1 in 16	At least 10 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 9 pts needed to draw a tag	Good unit with a few 320"+ bulls with better potential. Can be either good or tough depending on the year. Public land with good access borders the White Mtn. Reservation. Diverse habitat. Unit does not get rifle hunted.



## Archery Only Elk - Rut Hunts

Unit	Season Dates 2019	Total Number of tags 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015	# of Potential Nonresident Random Tags / Max Point Draw Tags- 2019	Harvest Success 2017-2013	Resident/ Nonresident Random Drawing odds - 2018	Nonresident -Points needed to draw a tag in the bonus point draw- 2018	Resident -Points needed to draw a tag in the bonus point draw- 2018	Our take on the hunt:
4A	Sept 13-26	219 219 165 165 166	11/10	58% 36% 44% 43% 35%	1 in 13	At least 10 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 8 pts needed to draw a tag	Great hunt for mostly 300-320"+ bulls with a few better bulls killed the last few years. Thick country with a few canyons in it. Public land with plenty of access. Has some open burns in it as well.
4B	Sept 13-26	125 125 125 125 125	6/6	59% 34% 26% 29% 30%	1 in 13	At least 9 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 8 pts needed to draw a tag	Rut hunt for mostly 300-310"+ bulls but a few great bulls have been killed. Plenty of public land with good access. Terrain varies from high desert prairie to mixed Pinyon-Juniper to mixed conifer. Not high populations, hit and miss hunt.
5A	Sept 13-26	145 145 194 194 194	7/7	44% 51% 38% 26% 33%	1 in 16	At least 10 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 8 pts needed to draw a tag	Tough rut hunt for 300" class bulls. Plenty of access and public land. Thick country, can be a tough hunt depending on the rut.
5B North	Sept 13-26	144 144 144 144 145	7/7	41% 31% 33% 29% 16%	1 in 15	At least 11 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 8 pts needed to draw a tag	A few great bulls with mostly 320-330"+ class bulls. Good public land with good access. A lot of open, glassable country with scattered trees. Can be a good hunt and has better quality than 5B South.
5B South	Sept 13-26	200 200 200 200 200	10/10	39% 41% 37% 42% 31%	1 in 20	At least 11 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 8 pts needed to draw a tag	Good hunt for 300-320"+ bulls. Thick treed type country, good road access and mostly public land. Can be tough depending on the rut. A lot of hunting pressure with high tag numbers. Good elk populations.
6A	Sept 13-26	700 700 700 700 775	35/35	44% 32% 27% 22% 21%	1 in 9	At least 7 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 7 pts needed to draw a tag	Big unit with high elk populations! A lot of tags and hunting pressure. Good hunt for 300-320"+ bulls with a few great bulls taken every year. Public land with great access, generally speaking. Some wilderness walk in type hunting as well, that can be good for hunters willing to work.
6B	Sept 13-26	155 155 155 155 155	8/7	40% 40% 38% 23% 16%	1 in 9	At least 7 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 6 pts needed to draw a tag	Some quality bulls with mostly 280-310" type bulls to be expected. Thick country with some good access as well as some wilderness country. Hit and miss hunt, can be tough with low success rates.
7 East	Sept 13-26	120 120 150 150 150	6/6	54% 18% 37% 26% 31%	1 in 6	At least 9 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 6 pts needed to draw a tag	Plenty of elk, not known for giant bulls. Good numbers of 260-320" bulls. Low rolling hills and flat country with scattered trees. Public land with good access.
7 East - Kachina Peaks Wilderness	Sept 13-26	30 30	2/1	N/A New Hunt as of 2018	1 in 3	At least 4 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 4 pts needed to draw a tag	Wilderness hunt, very physically tough hunt with small bulls available. Very tough, miserable hunt. Not a trophy hunt, do not use your points here.
7 West	Sept 13-26	175 175 175 175 175	9/8	57% 43% 31% 36% 41%	1 in 19	At least 14 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 9 pts needed to draw a tag	A few great bulls with mostly 320-340" class bulls and a few better bulls taken on normal years. Good public land unit with easy access. Good glassing country with scattered trees. Borders units 9 and 10 and shares some great bulls with those units.
8	Sept 13-26	250 250 200 175 150	13/12	39% 33% 30% 36% 27%	1 in 11	At least 12 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 8 pts needed to draw a tag	Has some great bulls, but can be a tough hunt! 320-340"+ bulls depending on the year but always has a few great bulls. Thick country and some physical, steep, deep country. Public land with good access, generally speaking.
9	Sept 13-26	100 100 100 100 100	5/5	70% 58% 77% 61% 51%	1 in 47	At least 20 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 13 pts needed to draw a tag	Hunt quality has declined over the past couple years and continues to struggle. 320-330"+ bulls with a few better bulls taken on most years. Flat, thick public land with good access. Borders Grand Canyon Natl. Park. Quality is far from what it once was.



## Archery Only Elk - Rut Hunts

Unit	Season Dates 2019	Total Number of tags 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015	# of Potential Nonresident Random Tags / Max Point Draw Tags-2019	Harvest Success 2017-2013	Resident/ Nonresident Random Drawing odds - 2018	Nonresident -Points needed to draw a tag in the bonus point draw-2018	Resident -Points needed to draw a tag in the bonus point draw-2018	Our take on the hunt:
10	Sept 13-26	100 100 100 125 200	5/5	62% 31% 32% 36% 30%	1 in 32	At least 18 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 11 pts needed to draw a tag	<b>One of the best archery hunts in the state.</b> This is generally the best season on the unit, but can be hit and miss for trophy quality depending on the year. Some 320-340" bulls with potential for better. A good portion of the unit is the Boquillas Ranch which has allowed public access for a minimal trespass fee. Big unit with some flat country and broken mountain terrain. Plenty of road access. Borders Hualapai Reservation to the west.
11M	Sept 13-26	80 80 80 80 80	4/4	44% 30% 34% 17% 38%	1 in 8	At least 7 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 6 pts needed to draw a tag	Unit is in the urban area near Flagstaff. 280-310" class bulls. Flat, thick ponderosa country in and around housing and other land developments. Not a traditional elk hunt. Generally not known as a trophy hunt.
11M	Sept 27 - Oct 10	80 80 80 80 80	4/4	9% 31% 15% 18% 24%	1 in 7	At least 6 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 6 pts needed to draw a tag	Same as the hunt above except the second hunt. Generally has lower success rates than the season prior.
16A	Sept 13-26	4 4 4 4 4	1/0	100% 50% 75% 75% 100%	1 in 11	No tag available to NR in the bonus point draw	At least 4 pts needed to draw a tag	Very low elk population - estimated at 40-60 for the unit. Some steep, rugged public land country with decent to good access. Some wilderness country. A few 300" bulls. The best season on this unit.
19A	Sept 13-26	15 15 15 15 15	1/0	27% 18% 60% 30% 33%	1 in 7	No tag available to NR in the bonus point draw	At least 7 pts needed to draw a tag	Relatively low elk densities. A few great bulls. Pinyon-Juniper country that's glassable. Public and private land with decent access. We recommend hiring an outfitter on this hunt to have the best chance at a trophy bull.
21	Sept 13-26	5 5 10 10 15	1/0	30% 80% 87% 36% 73%	1 in 19	No tag available to NR in the bonus point draw	At least 8 pts needed to draw a tag	Low elk densities but usually a couple good bulls. 320-330" type bulls. Good hunt for guys that like low hunting pressure and are willing to not see many elk. Public land with some decent access. Some rugged country as well. Quality has struggled.
22	Sept 13-26	50 50 40 25 25	3/2	78% 82% 72% 48% 72%	1 in 16	At least 12 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 10 pts needed to draw a tag	Mostly 280-310" class bulls on this hunt. Public land with good access for the most part, but also has some rugged, wilderness type country. Not a trophy hunt.
23 North	Sept 13-26	15 15 15 15 15	1/0	80% 87% 79% 60% 100%	1 in 106	No tag available to NR in the bonus point draw	At least 17 pts needed to draw a tag	<b>One of the best archery hunts in the state.</b> This is usually an incredible hunt with very little hunting pressure. On average moisture years there are 340-350"+ bulls with a few better. Public land with good access throughout. Borders White Mtn. Reservation. One of the best archery hunts in the state!
23 South	Sept 13-26	15 15 15 15 15	1/0	67% 40% 87% 100% 87%	1 in 59	No tag available to NR in the bonus point draw	At least 17 pts needed to draw a tag	<b>One of the best archery hunts in the state.</b> On normal years with decent moisture, there will be 350-360"+ bulls with a few better. Amazing hunt with only 15 total tags. Some of the biggest bulls in the state are in this unit. Public land with decent access. Can be physical, hunters should be in good shape. Does not have high elk populations.
27	Sept 13-26	225 225 225 225 225	11/11	41% 28% 32% 26% 44%	1 in 16	At least 14 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 9 pts needed to draw a tag	<b>One of the best archery hunts in the state.</b> This is usually a great hunt for guys willing to work hard. 320-340"+ bulls with a few great bulls taken each year. A lot of burned country and wilderness hiking/ horseback country as well as some areas with good vehicle access. Mostly public land. Great archery hunt on normal years.



**Archery Only Elk - Rut Hunts - "Limited Opportunity"**

Unit	Season Dates 2019	Total Number of tags 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015	# of Potential Nonresident Random Tags / Max Point Draw Tags- 2019	Harvest Success 2017-2013	Resident/ Nonresident Random Drawing odds - 2018	Nonresident -Points needed to draw a tag in the bonus point draw- 2018	Resident -Points needed to draw a tag in the bonus point draw- 2018	Our take on the hunt:
15A, 15B, 18A	Sept 13-Oct 3	25 25 25 25 25	1/1	44% 39% 28% 44% 43%	1 in 7	At least 7 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 7 pts needed to draw a tag	Good hunt for 310-330" class bulls with the potential for better. Lower elk densities, private land mixed with public. Enough public land to hunt with decent access. Unit 18A borders unit 10 and the Hualapai Reservation. Usually not an easy hunt.
17A, 17B, 18B, 19B, 20A, 20C	Sept 13-Oct 3	35 35 35 35 35	2/1	34% 42% 31% 46% 69%	1 in 10	At least 18 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 7 pts needed to draw a tag	Can be really good with 320-330"+ bulls. Private and public land, but private land, with an outfitter generally offers the best potential at a great bull. Lower densities of elk and giant country! Potential for a great bull.

**Archery Only Elk - The Best Late Season Post Rut Hunts**

1, 2B, 2C	Nov 8-21	30 30 30 30 30	2/1	30% 31% 18% 22% 22%	1 in 10	At least 13 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 7 pts needed to draw a tag	Late season archery hunt will be challenging. Plenty of elk, glassable public land country with good access. A good portion of the unit is burned. Spot and stalk hunt. Not an easy hunt, but decent success rates for the late season dates. 300-330"+ bulls available.
23	Nov 15-18	175 175 200 205 205	9/8	29% 17% 19% 27% 3%	1 in 3	At least 4 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 3 pts needed to draw a tag	Not an easy hunt but good, glassable country with big bull potential. Most of the mature bulls will have broken antlers a bit. Mostly 300-330"+ bulls. Public land with good access. Some remote rugged country in areas.
27	Nov 8-21	30 30 30 30 30	2/1	10% 27% 44% 32% 27%	1 in 9	At least 11 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 7 pts needed to draw a tag	320-340"+ bulls, great hunt for aggressive hunters who like to hunt late season. Broken bulls, rugged country with some vehicle access. Some hunters use horses. Outfitter recommended to have a decent chance at a trophy bull.

Limited Opportunity Hunts are listed in the regulations in the limited opportunity section. Beware, these hunts are separated due to private land issues/other access limitations and/or low elk densities.

**Muzzleloader Elk - legal weapons include in-line muzzleloaders with any power scopes as well as legal archery equipment**

Unit	Season Dates 2019	Total Number of tags 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015	# of Potential Nonresident Random Tags / Max Point Draw Tags- 2019	Harvest Success 2017-2013	Resident/ Nonresident Random Drawing odds - 2018	Nonresident -Points needed to draw a tag in the bonus point draw- 2018	Resident -Points needed to draw a tag in the bonus point draw- 2018	Our take on the hunt:
3B	Sept 27-Oct 3	30 30 25 25 25	2/1	89% 64% 64% 80% 72%	1 in 44	At least 19 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 16 pts needed to draw a tag	Good unit with a few 320"+ bulls with a couple better bulls taken in 2018. Great success rates year in and year out. Usually a solid hunt for good bulls. Public land with good access and some easier terrain. Borders the White Mtn. Reservation. Diverse habitat. Unit does not get rifle hunted.
3B	Nov 15-21	125 125 N/A N/A N/A	6/6	New Hunt as of 2018	1 in 4	At least 5 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 5 pts needed to draw a tag	Tags cut on the regular late muzzleloader season in this unit, by 75 tags, starting in 2018. Public land with good access and some easier terrain with a few good bulls. Bulls come in and out of the White Mtn. Reservation. Good opportunity for hunters wanting 300-320" class bulls.
3B	Nov 29-Dec 5	125 125 200 200 200	6/6	34% 38% 23% 31% 17%	1 in 2	At least 4 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 3 pts needed to draw a tag	Can be a tough muzzleloader hunt. Elk will come in and out of the White Mtn. Reservation depending on the hunting pressure. The unit is not rifle hunted. Public land with good access. Borders the White Mtn. Reservation. Good opportunity to hunt 300" class bulls.



### Muzzleloader Elk - legal weapons include in-line muzzleloaders with any power scopes as well as legal archery equipment

Unit	Season Dates 2019	Total Number of tags 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015	# of Potential Nonresident Random Tags / Max Point Draw Tags- 2019	Harvest Success 2017-2013	Resident/ Nonresident Random Drawing odds - 2018	Nonresident -Points needed to draw a tag in the bonus point draw- 2018	Resident -Points needed to draw a tag in the bonus point draw- 2018	Our take on the hunt:
6A	Nov 15-21	300 300 300 300 300	15/15	42% 41% 45% 37% 22%	1 in 6	At least 7 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 6 pts needed to draw a tag	Generally can be a tough hunt for good bulls, however there are good populations of elk with plenty of bulls. Big unit with extremely thick country. Some glassable canyon country, potential for 300-320" bulls. Good access with some wilderness as well. Unit is not known for producing great bulls generally speaking, but does have plenty of elk.
9	Sept 27-Oct 3	35 N/A	2/1	94% N/A 80% N/A 88%	Hunt wasn't available in 2018.	Hunt wasn't available in 2018. Expect it to take at least 22+ pts to draw.	Hunt wasn't available in 2018. Expect it to take at least 20 pts to draw.	Was a rifle hunt during this time last year. Quality has suffered in recent years! Even with quality slipping, 320-330" type bulls are harvested with the potential for better. Public land with good access and physically easier country. Flat, thick country. Borders Grand Canyon Natl. Park which can be great hunting.
10	Nov 8-14	75 75 75 75 150	4/3	30% 30% 34% 40% 52%	1 in 8	At least 14 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 7 pts needed to draw a tag	This can be a decent hunt as far as late muzzleloader hunts go, but it has been hit and miss the past couple of years. 300-330" type bulls with better potential depending on the year. This is the best late hunt on this unit and it even takes place before the late archery and rifle hunts. Public and private with the Boquillas Ranch allowing public access for a minimal trespass fee. Big unit with some flat country and broken mountain terrain. Plenty of road access. Borders Hualapai Reservation to the northwest.
16A	Sept 27-Oct 10	3 3 3 3 3	1/0	0% 100% 0% 0% 0%	1 in 30	No tag available to NR in the bonus point draw	At least 7 pts needed to draw a tag	Very low elk population-estimated at 40-60 for the unit. Some steep, rugged public land country. A few 300" bulls. One of the worst hunts in the state. Don't be a hero and apply here if you want to have a good hunt.
21	Sept 27-Oct 3	10 10 10 10 10	1/0	100% 80% 100% 40% 60%	1 in 22	No tag available to NR in the bonus point draw	At least 11 pts needed to draw a tag	Low elk densities, but a few good bulls taken every year. 320-330"+ bulls, good hunt for guys that like low hunting pressure. Public land with some good access and some rugged country as well. Not an easy hunt.
22 South	Sept 27-Oct 3	50 50 50 50 50	3/2	54% 74% 64% 67% 80%	1 in 20	At least 13 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 10 pts needed to draw a tag	A few good bulls but this unit has been over hunted on the late seasons. Not a trophy unit, but it does have some 310-320"+ bulls. Public land with some good access. Not a great hunt, but has the chance at producing a good bull.
27	Sept 27-Oct 3	40 N/A 40 N/A 40	2/2	81% N/A 60% N/A 80%	Hunt wasn't available in 2018.	Hunt wasn't available in 2018. Expect it to take at least 21+ pts to draw.	Hunt wasn't available in 2018. Expect it to take at least 18+ pts to draw.	<b>One of the best muzzleloader hunts in the state.</b> This season was a rifle hunt during this time frame last year. Good hunt for 320-340"+ bulls with a few giants taken each year. A lot of burned country and some wilderness country requiring hiking and/or horseback to access some areas. Also has some vehicle access. This unit is doing great!



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## ANTELOPE

Arizona has a few great antelope, although antelope tags are extremely tough to draw! The odds of drawing an antelope tag are tougher in a lot of instances than a sheep tag in Arizona! Most of the rifle antelope hunts take nonresidents 23-25 bonus points to draw a tag in the bonus point draw. The random draw odds are extremely tough as well. Antelope populations in Arizona are very modest, with very few tags issued annually, however there are always multiple Boone and Crockett bucks taken every year.

While the drought generally doesn't dramatically impact antelope negatively, it can and did have an impact on fawn production and yearling and adult antelope mortality. Surveys conducted and radio collar monitoring by the game and fish department showed a decrease in populations, in some areas, within Arizona. Hunters also reported seeing fewer antelope as well and as a result, tag numbers were decreased in those areas.

Last year was another fairly tough year for producing giant bucks compared to the other states known for big antelope such as New Mexico and Wyoming. However, there were a few great bucks taken. The units in our tables offer a good chance at harvesting 80"+ bucks every year, but on good years, there's always a few 85"-90"+ bucks taken.

There are a lot of units in Arizona that have relatively low populations of antelope, but ironically enough, some of the biggest antelope in the state come from those same units. There are a few units that have some private land issues but overall, most of the units have a good amount of public land with good access.



DAVE LEDBETTER, ANTELOPE, ARIZONA  
BOND TROPHY OUTFITTERS

In Arizona, even applicants with zero bonus points have a chance to draw an antelope tag. It is well worth the minimal additional application fee to apply for antelope in Arizona.

### Antelope Bonus Points going into the 2019 draw

Points	Residents	Nonresidents	Total
1	118,542	8,998	127,540
2	9,952	1,984	11,936
3	5,980	1,251	7,231
4	3,890	585	4,475
5	2,852	817	3,669
6	3,012	712	3,724
7	2,718	654	3,372
8	2,288	626	2,914
9	2,010	562	2,572
10	1,702	434	2,136
11	1,535	424	1,959
12	1,303	404	1,707
13	1,205	362	1,567
14	1,135	372	1,507
15	945	261	1,206
16	842	222	1,064
17	812	207	1,019
18	759	188	947
19	622	137	759
20	550	78	628
21	453	87	540
22	386	64	450
23	347	52	399
24	270	29	299
25	104	12	116
26	40	6	46
27	14	3	17
28	7	0	7
29	1	1	2



ADAM MILLBURN JR, ANTELOPE  
ARIZONA



## General Rifle Antelope - The Best Hunts

Legal weapons include Rifle, Muzzleloader, and Bow

Unit	Season Dates 2019	Total Number of tags 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015	# of Potential Nonresident Random Tags / Max Point Draw Tags- 2019	Harvest Success 2017-2013	Resident/ Nonresident Random Drawing odds - 2018	Nonresident -Points needed to draw a tag in the bonus point draw- 2018	Resident -Points needed to draw a tag in the bonus point draw- 2018	Our take on the hunt:
3A	Oct 4-13	17 17 20 25 25	1/0	80% 83% 78% 95% 80%	1 in 97	No tag available to NR in the bonus point draw	At least 23 pts needed to draw a tag	Great hunt with plenty of antelope. Easy hunt, plenty of public land to hunt and good access. Open, glassable type country. A few 80-82"+ bucks with a couple trophy bucks taken in the past.
3C	Sept 6-15	6 6 7 7 3	1/0	100% 100% 67% 100% 100%	1 in 141	No tag available to NR in the bonus point draw	At least 24 pts needed to draw a tag	Lower antelope densities but there was an few 88"+ buck taken in 2018. Low tag numbers, plenty of open, glassable country to hunt. Plenty of public land with good access. Good hunt for 78-80" bucks on normal years with a chance at a great buck.
4A	Sept 6-15	15 27 23 21 20	1/0	90% 100% 100% 94% 92%	1 in 135	No tag available to NR in the bonus point draw	At least 24 pts needed to draw a tag	<b>One of the best units in the state.</b> Tags cut by 12 tags for 2019 with drought causing a reduction in the overall population. Expect the odds of drawing to get worse. Has great potential with a buck over 88" net B&C taken in 2018. 80"+ bucks with good public land with easy access, plenty of open glassable country with antelope deep in the trees as well.
4B	Sept 6-15	35 35 30 30 30	2/1	87% 93% 80% 85% 84%	1 in 97	At least 24 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 23 pts needed to draw a tag	Good unit with a few 80"+ bucks. Public land with good access in the southern portion of the unit. Decent populations of antelope, but relatively high tag numbers in relation to the bucks available have hurt the average age class of the bucks.
5A	Sept 6-15	7 7 7 6 7	1/0	100% 83% 100% 83% 83%	1 in 227	No tag available to NR in the bonus point draw	At least 25 pts needed to draw a tag	<b>One of the best units in the state.</b> Good hunt with a few great bucks. Potential for an 82" buck. Good access available with some private/public land mixed. Plenty of good, glassable country. Smaller populations with a total of 200 animals estimated. Low tag numbers.
5B	Sept 6-15	21 21 20 18 18	1/1	89% 100% 89% 86% 88%	1 in 330	At least 27 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 25 pts needed to draw a tag	<b>One of the best units in the state.</b> Big bucks in some glassable country, but some treed country can make it tougher. Plenty of public land with good access. Some private, but overall plenty of country to hunt. A few 82-84"+ bucks with better potential!
7	Oct 4-13	38 43 48 48 48	2/1	73% 81% 77% 81% 100%	1 in 116	At least 24 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 24 pts needed to draw a tag	Tags cut by 5 tags for 2019, expect the odds of drawing to get worse. Can be a good hunt with some private ground on the east side limiting access, which definitely limits the trophy potential. A few good bucks with potential at a B&C buck. Open, glassable country.
9	Oct 4-13	30 32 40 40 40	2/1	78% 93% 78% 95% 93%	1 in 137	At least 26 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 24 pts needed to draw a tag	Tags cut by 2 tags for 2019. Can be a good hunt, but quality seems to be down lately. Always seems to produce a great buck with a few 80"+ bucks. Public land with good access. Some thick trees can make it tough. Good success rates.
10	Sept 6-15	85 85 100 100 100	4/4	79% 95% 96% 89% 69%	1 in 141	At least 24 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 24 pts needed to draw a tag	<b>One of the best units in the state</b> with some good bucks taken this past year. Public land with easy access, as well as the Boquillas Ranch which allows hunting. Plenty of open glassable country with some treed areas. Great populations of antelope, big unit. Giant buck taken on the Hualapai Reservation near the unit 10 boundary.
13A	Sept 6-15	7 10 8 10 10	1/0	100% 60% 90% 80% 80%	1 in 55	No tag available to NR in the bonus point draw	At least 23 pts needed to draw a tag	Tags cut by 3 tags for 2019, expect the odds of drawing to get worse. The "Arizona Strip," public land, great access. Solid hunt with some 80"+ bucks. Not high densities of antelope, but a good hunt with low tag numbers.
13B	Sept 6-15	15 15 15 10 10	1/0	82% 100% 80% 100% 80%	1 in 48	No tag available to NR in the bonus point draw	At least 21 pts needed to draw a tag	The "Arizona Strip," public land, great access. Solid bucks with some 80"+ bucks. Plenty of antelope to hunt although not great populations. Easier hunt with great success rates.
18A	Sept 13-19	5 5 10 10 10	1/0	89% 90% 100% 90% 80%	1 in 164	No tag available to NR in the bonus point draw	At least 24 pts needed to draw a tag	Muzzleloader hunt is just prior to this hunt. Was a great hunt in 2017, but seemed off in 2018. Always has a few big bucks. Some private land (which may have the best bucks) and public mixed, with relatively good public land access. Not great populations of antelope but enough to have a good hunt.



## General Rifle Antelope - The Best Hunts

Legal weapons include Rifle, Muzzleloader, and Bow

Unit	Season Dates 2019	Total Number of tags 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015	# of Potential Nonresident Random Tags / Max Point Draw Tags- 2019	Harvest Success 2017-2013	Resident/ Nonresident Random Drawing odds - 2018	Nonresident -Points needed to draw a tag in the bonus point draw- 2018	Resident -Points needed to draw a tag in the bonus point draw- 2018	Our take on the hunt:
18B	Sept 6-15	8 8 10 15 15	1/0	70% 100% 62% 70% 81%	1 in 106	No tag available to NR in the bonus point draw	At least 24 pts needed to draw a tag	Tags have been reduced over the past several years. Quality has declined as well. Good accessible public land but some private as well. Still has a few 80"+ bucks but there are better hunts.
19A	Sept 13-19	20 30 30 30 30	1/1	93% 97% 80% 89% 89%	1 in 89	At least 24 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 23 pts needed to draw a tag	Tags cut by 10 tags for 2019. Muzzleloader hunt is just prior to this hunt. A few good bucks with 78"+ potential and decent populations. Public and private land. Can access some private for a reasonable fee. Tough hunt for quality bucks in 2018.
19B	Sept 13-19	5 5 5 5 5	1/0	100% 100% N/A 100% N/A	1 in 270	No tag available to NR in the bonus point draw	At least 25 pts needed to draw a tag	Low tag numbers but decent populations. A few good bucks with great potential. Private and public land mixed, with decent access in some parts and tough in others. Private land has produced some giant bucks.



BRENT HICKEY, ANTELOPE, ARIZONA  
A3 TROPHY HUNTS



SHEILA HUNTER, ANTELOPE, ARIZONA  
HUNT HARD OUTFITTERS

## Archery Only Antelope - The Best Hunts

Unit	Season Dates 2019	Total Number of tags 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015	# of Potential Nonresident Random Tags / Max Point Draw Tags- 2019	Harvest Success 2017 - 2013	Resident/ Nonresident Random Drawing odds - 2018	Nonresident -Points needed to draw a tag in the bonus point draw- 2018	Resident -Points needed to draw a tag in the bonus point draw- 2018	Our take on the hunt:
3A	Aug 16-29	10 10 10 10 10	1/0	20% 100% 20% 0% 0%	1 in 30	No tag available to NR in the bonus point draw	At least 17 pts needed to draw a tag	Great hunt with plenty of antelope. Easy hunt, plenty of public land to hunt and good access. Open, glassable type country. A few 80-82"+ bucks with a couple trophy bucks taken in the past.
4A	Aug 23 - Sept 5	5 5 5 5 5	1/0	60% 60% 60% 50% 0%	1 in 45	No tag available to NR in the bonus point draw	At least 20 pts needed to draw a tag	<b>One of the top units in the state.</b> Expect the odds of drawing to get worse. Has great potential with a buck over 88" net B&C taken in this unit in 2018. Mostly 80"+ bucks with good public land with easy access, plenty of open glassable country with antelope deep in the trees as well.

## Archery Only Antelope - The Best Hunts

Unit	Season Dates 2019	Total Number of tags 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015	# of Potential Nonresident Random Tags / Max Point Draw Tags- 2019	Harvest Success 2017 - 2013	Resident/ Nonresident Random Drawing odds - 2018	Nonresident -Points needed to draw a tag in the bonus point draw- 2018	Resident -Points needed to draw a tag in the bonus point draw- 2018	Our take on the hunt:
4B	Aug 23 - Sept 5	15 15 15 15 15	1/0	0% 53% 0% 21% 20%	1 in 22	No tag available to NR in the bonus point draw	At least 16 pts needed to draw a tag	Good unit with a few 80"+ bucks. Public land with good access in the southern portion of the unit. Decent populations of antelope, but relatively high tag numbers in relation to the bucks available have hurt the average age class of the bucks.
5A	Aug 23 - Sept 5	3 3 3 3 4	1/0	0% 0% 0% 100% 0%	1 in 48	No tag available to NR in the bonus point draw	At least 16 pts needed to draw a tag	<b>One of the top units in the state.</b> Great hunt with a few solid bucks. Good access and public land. Plenty of good, glassable country but tougher to stalk them in. Smaller populations, but a few great bucks!
5B	Aug 23 - Sept 5	8 8 8 8 9	1/0	100% 25% 0% 44% 25%	1 in 64	No tag available to NR in the bonus point draw	At least 19 pts needed to draw a tag	<b>One of the top units in the state.</b> Big bucks with some open glassable country and some treed country. Plenty of public land with good access. A few 82-84"+ bucks with potential for better.
7	Aug 16-29	5 10 10 10 10	1/0	40% 60% 50% 60% 0%	1 in 46	No tag available to NR in the bonus point draw	At least 16 pts needed to draw a tag	Tags cut by 5 tags for 2019, expect draw odds to get worse. Good hunt with some private ground on the east side severely limiting access to quality country. Plenty of good bucks with potential at a big buck. Open, glassable country. Spot and stalk style hunt.
9	Aug 16-29	5 8 10 5 5	1/0	0% 100% 100% 60% 0%	1 in 38	No tag available to NR in the bonus point draw	At least 17 pts needed to draw a tag	Tags cut by 3 tags for 2019, expect draw odds to get worse. Quality is down. Public land with good access. Flat country with some thick trees can make it tough. Not a great trophy hunt.
10	Aug 23 - Sept 5	65 65 70 70 70	3/3	47% 39% 29% 31% 22%	1 in 21	At least 17 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 15 pts needed to draw a tag	<b>One of the top units in the state.</b> Good public land with easy access, as well as the Boquillas Ranch allowing hunting. Plenty of open glassable country with some cover. Spot and stalk or sit water. Great populations of antelope with a few good bucks taken in 2018.
17B and 19B	Aug 9-22	5 5 5 5 5	1/0	100% 100% 60% 100% 100%	1 in 60	No tag available to NR in the bonus point draw	At least 21 pts needed to draw a tag	First hunt on this unit group. Unit 17B is not rifle hunted. Low tag numbers but decent populations. A few great bucks with 82"+ potential. Private and public land, private has produced some great bucks.
17B and 19B	Aug 23 - Sept 5	5 5 5 5 5	1/0	100% 100% 60% 100% 100%	1 in 41	No tag available to NR in the bonus point draw	At least 18 pts needed to draw a tag	Second archery season. Same as above.
18A	Aug 23 - Sept 5	5 5 10 10 10	1/0	43% 80% 100% 0% 20%	1 in 31	No tag available to NR in the bonus point draw	At least 17 pts needed to draw a tag	Good hunt for a few big bucks. Some private land and public land with relatively good public land access. Great potential, but not near as good as it was in 2017. Tags cut in half on this hunt and the rifle hunt.
18B	Aug 23 - Sept 5	5 5 5 5 5	1/0	0% 0% 100% 40% 60%	1 in 20	No tag available to NR in the bonus point draw	At least 15 pts needed to draw a tag	Rifle tags have been reduced over the past several years. Good accessible public land but some private land as well. Still has a few 80"+ bucks. Low tag numbers.
19A	Aug 23-29	13 20 20 20 20	1/0	67% 39% 70% 70% 53%	1 in 35	No tag available to NR in the bonus point draw	At least 16 pts needed to draw a tag	Tags cut by 7 tags for 2019, expect draw odds to get worse. First archery season. A few good bucks with potential for 78"+ bucks. Tough year in 2018 in this unit. Public and private land. Can access some private for a reasonable fee.
19A	Aug 30-Sept 5	14 20 20 20 20	1/0	77% 15% 88% 46% 43%	1 in 22	At least 14 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 13 pts needed to draw a tag	Tags cut by 6 tags for 2019, expect draw odds to get worse. Second archery season. Same as above.



### Muzzleloader Antelope - The Best Hunts

Legal weapons include in-line muzzleloaders with any power scopes as well as legal archery equipment

Unit	Season Dates 2019	Total Number of tags 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015	# of Potential Nonresident Random Tags / Max Point Draw Tags- 2019	Harvest Success 2017-2013	Resident/ Nonresident Random Drawing odds - 2018	Nonresident -Points needed to draw a tag in the bonus point draw- 2018	Resident -Points needed to draw a tag in the bonus point draw- 2018	Our take on the hunt:
8	Sept 6-15	20 25 25 30 30	1/1	80% 72% 64% 100% 80%	1 in 57	At least 22 pts needed to draw a tag	At least 22 pts needed to draw a tag	Tags cut by 5 tags for 2019. First muzzleloader hunt on the unit. No rifle or archery hunts in this unit. Good unit for 80"+ bucks with potential for a giant. Plenty of good public land access.
8	Oct 4-13	10 15 15 New in 2017	1/0	73% New as of 2017	1 in 45	No tag available to NR in the bonus point draw	At least 20 pts needed to draw a tag	Tags cut by 5 tags for 2019. Second season as of 2017. Same as above.
17B and 19B	Sept 6-12	6 6 6 6 6	1/0	100% 100% 100% 100% 83%	1 in 63	No tag available to NR in the bonus point draw	At least 25 pts needed to draw a tag	Season is before the rifle hunt in 19B. Unit 17B is not rifle hunted. High success rates, low tag numbers. A few great bucks with giant potential. Private and public land, private has produced some great bucks.
18A	Sept 6-12	5 5 5 5 5	1/0	100% 100% 100% 60% 100%	1 in 62	No tag available to NR in the bonus point draw	At least 23 pts needed to draw a tag	Hunt takes place before the rifle hunt. Good hunt for a few big bucks. Some private land (which may have the best bucks) and public mixed, with relatively good public land access. Not huge populations but enough to have a good hunt. 80"+ bucks with a giant taken in this unit in 2018.
19A	Sept 6-12	7 10 10 10 10	1/0	100% 88% 90% 100% 87%	1 in 53	No tag available to NR in the bonus point draw	At least 22 pts needed to draw a tag	Tags cut by 3 tags for 2019. Hunt takes place before the rifle hunt. A few 82"+ bucks with good populations. Public and private land. Can access some private for a reasonable fee.



GRACIE SOMERVILLE, ANTELOPE  
ARIZONA



WYATT ISLAS, ANTELOPE, ARIZONA  
HIGH POINT OUTFITTERS

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Ryan Benson, 2018 Idaho Bighorn  
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# All HEART

JOSH PACE • 388" ELK • ARIZONA - BY CHAD PACE



**Like most world class animals that we hunters see pictures of in magazines and on the internet, the story begins many years ago, 20 actually, with dedication to the application process and enduring the disappointment of unsuccessful results.** However, this story has a different ending.

This was going to be my year. After 2 decades of patience, I would finally draw a coveted archery tag in one of the best elk units in Arizona. I have had the opportunity of harvesting many elk over the years, including several great bulls between 320 and 360. I have never hunted with an outfitter before but knew full well what this tag was worth. I also knew that opportunities to harvest a giant bull don't come along very often and I really don't have the time to do the necessary scouting to make it happen. So, with these things in my mind, I knew that when the tag came, I would not leave things to chance, but hire an outfitter. The question was, "Which one?" The answer came in February when I attended the Hunting and Conservation Expo in Salt Lake City. There are a lot of great outfitters in Arizona and I was beginning to

narrow down who would help me with this special tag. It so happened that Jay Lopeman and George Garcia from A3 Outfitters had a booth at the expo. It took about 30 seconds of being with them and I knew they were my guys.

Due to the drought, the storms needed to grow those long beams never came. Jay called me a few weeks before the hunt and said what I had been fearing all year. "You're turning your tag back in, things are not looking good." I was so disappointed, but amazed and grateful at the honesty Jay exhibited. He was really treating it like it was his tag. With 20 points, I would draw again next year. He told me he wanted me to donate my tag to an organization that gives the tags to kids with terminal illness called Outdoor Experience 4 All. I called Eddie Corona who runs OE4A to transfer my tag. While on the phone with Eddie, I mentioned to him I'd like my son Josh on the waiting list to potentially receive one of these "turned in" tags, but I thought nothing would come of it. He said, "Tell me about Josh." Josh is 17 years old and everyday is a miracle. He was born with a severe





heart defect called Hypoplastic left heart syndrome, which means he has no left ventricle. He has had 3 very complicated open heart surgeries and has been poked, prodded and tested more than anyone should ever have to be. All the while, he never complains—the kid is a stud!

After telling Eddie about Josh, he said, “Well, we will give Josh your tag.” I was in shock! I called Jay back and said we were back on for the hunt, but now with my son. A3 and George offered to donate their time to help Josh get a bull. Wow! That was a 15 minute emotional roller coaster. Now it was crunch time, we had to get Josh ready for an elk hunt.

Before we knew it, we were headed south to Arizona. Day one started out differently than we hoped. On our drive to a favorite glassing spot, we discovered someone had camped in the middle of the area the elk use to travel—the joy of public land hunting. We moved to a different location as the clear skies were beginning to get brighter. No matter how many hunts I have been on, there is nothing like first light. The anticipation, excitement and build up of what you might see is hard to put into words. It is always an adrenaline rush. As we began glassing, we were a little disappointed by the lack of game sightings. The hunt started out very slow. You know how it is, you are in one of the best units in the world, so there should be a 350 bull around every bend





right? At least that's what we dream of. Well, we were having a hard time finding any elk at all. In fact, that was the general consensus from everyone. There were no big bulls hitting the ground and lots of frustrated hunters. Day one found us looking at a few raghorn bulls and more dust from the dry roads than you can imagine.

George opted to try "High Ground," another favorite glassing spot where many great bulls have been spotted over the years. The hike in was over a mile uphill and it was a little difficult for Josh to get where we wanted to be. Hiking can be hard for him, he gets pretty nauseated. It was hot, 80 to 85 degrees, too hot for an elk hunt in the rut and there was more cactus than I have ever seen in my life. We did manage to glass up a solid 6 point that was put together pretty well considering how bad the drought had been. We figured he would go 320 to 330. He was a couple miles out and we wouldn't have enough time to make a play on him, but at least we saw a potential shooter. However, the next day we could not turn him up.

George brought along a childhood friend, Robert Clark, as an extra pair of eyes and I am grateful he came. The

two of them together were hilarious! Josh couldn't stop laughing the whole hunt. Robert kept popping off to George about how lousy the elk hunting was and that maybe we should just drive on the freeway, as we would have a better chance of seeing elk. George took all the jokes in stride and never gave up. He kept believing we would find a big bull. He kept saying, "I know there is a giant that made it through the drought."

On our second to last day, we opted to go back to the area we had started, hoping some other elk had moved into the area. As luck would have it, the camp that was there had left. We started glassing elk on the distant hillside and cedar flat. It was very thick and took a while to pick through all the cover to figure out what elk we had. There were several raghorns, a few cows and a couple 5 points. After a while, Robert found a bull on top of the hill. We could tell he was a good bull that looked heavy, but it was hard to get a good look at him. We decided to head over and see what things looked like when we got closer.

We hiked up and around the hill the elk were on. It was getting pretty late in the morning and the temperature



was rising quickly. Some of the bulls were still bugling and George, knowing our time to hunt was short, decided to make a play on this bull. He said, "I am going to pull that bull past you at 15 yards." I thought, "Wow, I like his confidence." As we started up the hill, a distant bugle could be heard once in a while from different bulls. As we got closer to the elk, the excitement and our heart rates were going up. Suddenly, I saw a flash of antlers right in front of us at 60 yards. I motioned for everyone to stop. That's when George began to work his magic—it was amazing. He worked that bull and several others into a frenzy, after 2 minutes, he started coming in. At 40 yards, he let out a ground shattering bugle and kept coming. He stopped at 23 yards giving Josh a quartering shot through a tiny triangle shaped window in the brush. Josh let an arrow fly and the shot looked good. We

waited for 50 minutes (the worst 50 minutes of a bow hunters life), but as it turned out, we didn't need to. The shot was perfect, he didn't go 50 yards.

Walking up to that bull was a very emotional experience for me. Being part of harvesting an animal always is, but this was even more special. Yes, he is a world class bull with ridiculous mass and incredible length on his fronts. Of course I wanted Josh to be able to tag a good bull, but its not his size that matters most to me. I am so grateful I could be on that mountain with Josh. It's a miracle that he could even be there. A big thank you to A3 Outfitters, Jay, George, Robert and Eddie for making this possible, you guys are "All Heart!" Oh and by the way George, you didn't quite get him to 15 yards, but you did find a monster that made it through the drought.





# ROLLER Coaster

SHAWN WOOD • ANTELOPE • ARIZONA

**Many times as hunters, things just don't go according to how they were planned out.** My Arizona antelope hunt had many things along the way that didn't go according to plan. First of all, having only ten points for antelope in Arizona, no one thinks that they will draw an antelope tag. Luck was on my side this March and after double checking my credit card, I quickly realized that I would be hunting antelope, in Arizona, this fall. The next question was, "What choice on my application did I draw?" With some previous research already done on both units I'd applied for, I had no question that I would be hiring Craig Steele of Exclusive Pursuit Outfitters for this hunt. This is most likely a once-in-a-lifetime tag and I was going to try to make the best of it. Craig has hunted both units, in which I applied, for many years and I knew he'd go all-in, once hired. When the draw results were posted, it was confirmed that I had drawn my second choice—no big surprise.

I called Craig immediately after the results were posted and we discussed a few more details on the hunt. Craig said he'd touch base with me later in the summer to let me know how his scouting trips were going. In August, I received an email from Craig with a rundown from his scouting trips. It was not the type of email you want to get with a tag like this. It seemed that the drought in Arizona had put a pretty good hurt on the antelope, in this area, in both numbers and quality. They seemed

to be scattered throughout the forest instead on being visible in open country. Craig actually asked me how many points I had when I drew and said if I had max or close to max, he would suggest I "PointGuard" my tag. With only 10 points, I was willing to gamble on it. Craig had found two shooter bucks so far, and he said one of them was in a very popular area and probably wouldn't make it through archery season, (he was right, the buck was killed opening day of the archery hunt) the other was off the beaten path and he felt confident about having a good chance at it.

Fast-forward to the hunt. I showed up in the unit the night before the opener. Craig had brought in the help of Hunter Haines for the first part of the hunt and the three of us formed a game-plan for opening morning. Upon arrival, Craig had both good news and bad news. The Good News—Craig and Hunter located our target buck earlier that evening. The Bad News—the buck had moved about a mile and was in a meadow right next to a main road. That night was also the best look Craig had at this buck and he said that he wasn't as big as he had previously thought and he wasn't even sure if he would break 80". I could tell this was bothering Craig. I'm one of those guys that plays the hand that is dealt to you. Craig had spent nine full days scouting for this hunt and this was the best buck he saw. I told Craig, "We're gonna go try to kill that buck in the morning!"



We awoke opening morning and it was very brisk, with temperatures hovering around the freezing mark. We headed out to where the target buck had been hanging out and we immediately saw we had the company of another hunter. Not good, considering this was the only buck living in the area. We headed to where we'd left the buck at dark the night before and waited for daylight. Nothing was in the meadow but a few cow elk at daybreak. Ten minutes after legal shooting light, I heard the noise I was dreading—the report of a rifle, followed by a loud "Thwack!" The sound came from the meadow next to the one we were overlooking. Craig looked at me and said, "Well, now we have to go hunt!" That was a gut-punch that would work out in our favor. We headed to the truck and actually met up with the other hunter who was back at his truck as well. We congratulated him and moved on our way.

With no other shooters in our back pocket, Craig's game-plan was to try to locate one of several bucks that he had seen the previous year, while scouting for the governor tag. These bucks had become ghosts this year. We glassed a few spots while heading north through the middle of the unit. We turned up a few

goats, but nothing that would go higher than low to mid 70's. About noon, we arrived on a knob that looked really promising. Craig said that the year before there had been a really nice buck in this location that was tall and narrow, but had some goofy character towards the top of his horns. He had spent two full days looking for this buck during scouting with no luck turning him up. We spotted a few goats that weren't shooters and after about 30 minutes we located a herd around three miles out. Through the heatwaves, we could see black on the top of one of the goat's heads, we had to get closer. We used the vehicle to get a better look and we closed the distance to about 3/4 mile. We pulled up our glass and Craig confirmed immediately that we were dealing with a "Shooter Goat". They were in a bad spot to try to close the distance any further, so we retreated back to our glassing location. Once back on the glassing knob, Craig, Hunter and myself formulated a stalk. Hunter would stay on the knob, while Craig and I would try to close the distance and seal the deal.

The goats were still about 1 1/2 miles out when the stalk started. We closed the distance to 600 yards pretty quick, but we ran out of cover. By then, the antelope had





bedded and were very relaxed, I decided to crawl the rest of the way. Both Craig and I crawled until we were within 350 yards of the bedded buck. I put my bipod down and set up for the shot. His vitals offered no shot when he was bedded, so now it was a waiting game. After an hour he finally stood up and still offered no shot. Then he started to walk away. Between other goats, bad body angle, interfering brush and never stopping, this goat didn't offer a shot until he was almost 475 yards away. At that distance, he finally offered a quartering away shot in about a 12 mile per hour crosswind. Luckily, I know my gun well, so the distance was dialed and the wind-hold was corrected. I squeezed the trigger and he immediately lunged forward and ran 30 yards. He stayed

there for about 10 seconds and expired on the spot. My bullet took out the front of the heart, exited the off-shoulder and just like that, my hunt was over.

After getting back to camp that night, we threw a quick tape on my buck. Each horn was 16  $\frac{3}{4}$ " long and it grosses 81  $\frac{3}{4}$ ". It's much nicer than the one we were after first thing in the morning. Craig confirmed that this was the buck he had seen the previous year, in the same spot. It was definitely an emotional roller-coaster of a one day hunt. There is no way it could've happened without Craig and his devotion to making his hunts a success. Both Craig and Hunter were awesome to hunt with and I can't wait till I hunt with them in the future.







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# *Small or Broken...* **TAKE YOUR PICK**

ERIC ENGLISH • ELK • ARIZONA



**As the application deadline approached, my dad, Paul and I were sitting with zero bonus points.** My dad had recently purchased a home in the area of Prescott, Arizona, so we decided to apply for the limited opportunity early rifle bull hunt encompassing several units around the Prescott area.

When the draw results were revealed we were shocked to find out we had been drawn for the early rifle hunt. As spring turned into summer, our excitement quickly began to wear off, as Arizona was not receiving any precipitation.

By the end of the summer, everyone knew this season was going to be tough because of the drought. Before the hunt, lots of guys were using “PointGuard” to turn their tags back and everyone was talking about how bad antler growth was. After the early hard horn hunts were underway, there was more bad news; most of the bulls were all broke up due to weak antlers. I had low expectations when my hunt began—small or broke? Take your pick.

Things were looking really bad so my friend Schylar Cloute hooked me up with Layton Cooper of Raging Bull Outfitter’s. After a few discussions we decided to give it our all. We would try to capitalize on a good bull, in spite

of all odds being against us, including this particular hunt and the poor conditions the drought had brought.

When opening morning arrived, we all met at my Dad’s house and headed out for the day. We listened for bugling and rutting activity as we waited for daylight to break, but we only heard silence. As daylight emerged, I immediately spotted the first bull, a young six point. My dad looked at the bull and knowing he had prior commitments and could only hunt a few days, decided he wanted to take him.

We made a plan with Layton and began to make our move on the bull. We closed the distance to 500 yards and found ourselves unable to get any closer, due to the vegetation and terrain. My dad did not feel comfortable taking the shot and we watched the bull move into a thick Juniper thicket, to bed.

That evening, my dad and I set up within shooting range of the bulls bedding area, while Layton glassed the surrounding hills from a nearby high point. The daylight slipped away, and the bull did not present himself. Over the next few days, we checked multiple different areas and saw multiple bulls, but nothing that we wanted to take. After the third day, my dad had to return to work.





Layton and I decided we would meet in the morning and check an area where Layton had been successful, in the past. That morning we headed up to our glassing point and were waiting for daybreak. We quickly found ourselves stuck in a rain storm with very poor visibility. We hunkered down under a thick Juniper to stay dry and wait out the storm.

As the storm cleared and the sun began to peak through the clouds, Layton told me he'd found a shooter. The bull was on a very thick ridge and so were we. We began moving from Juniper to Juniper trying to get a clear shot on the bull, but as soon as we got set up for a shot the bull would step behind a tree and we would have to make another move, trying to predict the next small window he would pass through. We repeated this process five or six times and the bull was moving into a spot where we could lose him for good.

We set up for what we thought would be our last opportunity at this big 6 point. Layton ranged the opening at 550 yards as I remained in the scope, hoping

the bull was going to give us one last chance. Turned out, luck was on our side and the bull moved through the opening that appeared to be only a few inches wide. The situation was extremely tense, but Layton kept me calm as we settled into such a difficult shot, through impossibly thick junipers. I waited for his vitals to be presented and squeezed the trigger. I heard the smack of the bullet and watched the bull drop right where he stood.

Although we were both filled with excitement and wanted to start celebrating, Layton remained on the glass and I stayed on the scope. At this point, we could just see the top of the bull's antlers. After a couple of minutes, I heard Layton say, "He's getting up." As the bull stood up, I let another shot go and heard Layton say it was a good hit. The bull then stepped out of the small opening into what appeared to be a never-ending sea of junipers.

We tried to remain confident, but as we watched another storm move in, the "what-if's" began to cross our minds.



We gave the bull adequate time to expire and decided to move in with hopes of recovering a big bull. We got to where the bull was standing when I shot and found him expired 10 feet away with both shots being perfectly placed.

As I laid eyes on my bull, I was fulfilled with excitement and disbelief. I soon realized we had just taken a once-in-a-lifetime bull, on one of the hardest hunts in Arizona, during some of the toughest antler producing conditions in recent history.

Everyone knew the season was going to be tough because of the drought. As I mentioned, a lot of guys

were using "PointGuard" to turn their tags in and everyone was talking about the poor antler growth. The reports of broken bulls after the hunts, left me with low expectations, but Layton's experience made all the difference, he knew where to find animals and was great on the glass.

Incredibly, we were on bulls everyday, in a place where it's not uncommon to go all day and not see a bull. What's more incredible is we found a dream bull, with a pristine set of antlers, during such a bad year and we got a him on the ground. Layton is a great guy to be around and an exceptional outdoorsman—it's hard to find both. I hope to hunt with him again soon.





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photo: Glenn Pauley

## SHEEP, MOOSE, GOAT, ELK, & BISON

<b>DEPARTMENT:</b> Wyoming Game and Fish		<b>ADDRESS:</b> 5400 Bishop Blvd.	
<b>CITY:</b> Cheyenne	<b>STATE:</b> WY	<b>ZIP:</b> 82006-0001	
<b>PHONE:</b> 307-777-4600		<b>WEBSITE:</b> wgfd.wyo.gov	

### Resident and Nonresident Tag/License/Stamp Required and Fees:

Species	Nonresident Regular	Nonresident Special	Nonresident Youth	Resident	Resident Youth
Full Price Elk with Fishing Points Only	\$707** \$52	\$1,283** \$52	\$290** \$10	\$62*	\$30
Full Price Deer Points Only	\$389** \$41	\$677** \$41	\$125** \$10	\$47*	\$20*
Full Price Antelope Points Only	\$341** \$31	\$629** \$31	\$125** \$10	\$42*	\$20*
Moose Points Only	\$1,997** \$150	N/A	\$1,997** \$150	\$157* \$7	\$157* \$7
Bighorn Sheep Points Only	\$2,335** \$150	N/A	\$2,335** \$150	\$157* \$7	\$157* \$7
Mountain Goat	\$2,177**	N/A	\$2,177**	\$157*	\$157*
Any Wild Bison Cow/Calf Bison	\$4,417** \$2,767**	N/A N/A	\$4,417** \$2,767**	\$419* \$265*	\$419* \$265*
Conservation Stamp Annual	\$12.50	\$12.50	\$12.50	\$12.50	\$12.50
Lifetime Stamp	\$185.50	\$185.50	\$185.50	\$185.50	\$185.50
Archery License Annual	\$72	\$72	\$12	\$16	\$6
Lifetime	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$208	\$208

\* A nonrefundable fee of \$5 is included in the amount to be remitted for each big game license.

\*\* A nonrefundable fee of \$15 is included in the amount to be remitted for each big game license.

**New Changes for 2019:** Wyoming has created new Mountain goat type A hunts in an attempt to harvest goats in areas where goats are in very low numbers in order to prevent expansion into Bighorn sheep ranges. See the goat table for details on these hunts.

Effective January 1, 2019 all applications, licenses, and permit fees paid for with a credit card will incur a 2.5% credit card processing fee. This should be something you consider when applying for Wyoming, since they require you to pay for each species tag fees at the time of application and the 2.5% processing fee is nonrefundable.

Beginning January 1, 2019, hunting and fishing licenses and conservation stamps will be valid for 12 months from the date of purchase, the expiration date will be printed on the license.

**Application Instructions/How to Apply:** Applications must be submitted online by midnight Mountain Time on the deadline, by going online at <https://wgfd.wyo.gov/apply-or-buy>. If you have previously applied in Wyoming and cannot find your account online, DO NOT create a new customer record or your multiple accounts and any accumulated preference points will not be

**DISCLAIMER:** This information is pertinent to 2019 applications and is to be used as general reference only. Refer to the official 2019 Wyoming hunt application booklet and hunting regulations for more detailed information.





JOHN CHATELAIN, ELK, WYOMING  
BEAVER TRAP OUTFITTERS

utilized in the draw. Contact the Department at 307-777-4600 for assistance. Permit fees must be paid in full by Visa, Mastercard, or Discover when the application is submitted. Each person who receives a license to hunt in Wyoming must also purchase one conservation stamp for \$12.50. At the time of application, you may select to purchase a conservation stamp or elk management stamp. If successful in the draw, you will be automatically charged for these stamps. Refunds for unsuccessful applications are issued back to the credit card used at the time of application. This typically occurs within 1-2 weeks after the draw results. Keep in mind, credit cards must remain valid beyond the draw results dates in order for refunds to be properly credited back. Applicants will have the applicable preference fees deducted from their license refund. Draw results will also be posted online at <https://wgfd.wyo.gov/Hunting/Draw-Results>.

### Application Deadlines and Draw Results:

Species	Nonresident Application Period	Resident Application Period	Results Nonresident	Results Resident
Elk	January 2- January 31	January 2- May 31	Feb 21	June 20
Deer	January 2- May 31	January 2- May 31	June 20	June 20
Antelope	January 2- May 31	January 2- May 31	June 20	June 20
Moose	January 2- February 28	January 2- February 28	May 9	May 9
Bighorn Sheep	January 2- February 28	January 2- February 28	May 9	May 9
Mountain Goat	January 2- February 28	January 2- February 28	May 9	May 9
Wild Bison	February 1- February 28	February 1- February 28	May 9	May 9
Super Tag Raffle	July 16, 2018 to July 1, 2019	July 16 2018 to July 1, 2019	TBD	TBD
Preference Point only	July 1 - October 31	July 1 - October 31	N/A	N/A

Species	Nonresident Modify/ Withdraw Deadline	Resident Modify/ Withdraw Deadline
Elk	February 4	May 31
Deer and Antelope	May 31	May 31
Moose, Bighorn Sheep, Mountain Goat, Bison	April 15	April 15

**Amend/Modify:** Applicants may modify their application by going online as they did when applying, then click on “view previously submitted applications,” and then the modify button. You may not change from a regular to special elk hunt, but can amend or remove the application. See the table below for amend/modify deadlines for each application period.

**How the Draw System Works:** All first choice applications will be considered before any second choice hunt codes are considered. Bonus points do NOT get used or go to zero for second choice or beyond successful draw choices.

**Bonus Points/Preference Point System:** Wyoming has a preference point system. No person may be awarded more than one preference point, per species, per calendar year. Preference points are species specific and not unit or weapon specific.



MICHAEL BOREL, ROCKY MTN BIGHORN, WYOMING  
7D RANCH OUTFITTING





DAN CLARK, ELK, WYOMING  
BEAVER TRAP OUTFITTERS



GRACE TANNER, MOOSE  
WYOMING

The preference point system pertains to both resident and nonresident moose and Bighorn sheep applications as well as nonresident elk, deer, and antelope drawings. There is no point system for Mountain goat or bison for either residents or nonresidents. Additionally, there is no point system for resident deer, elk, and antelope applicants.

Wyoming issues 75% of available licenses, in each hunt area and license type, to the preference point drawing. Applicants with the highest preference point ranking will receive priority in the preference point draw. The remaining 25% of available licenses will be allocated in a random drawing, regardless of preference points. The random drawing is intended to provide everyone who applies a chance of drawing a license, regardless of their preference point total. After the preference point drawing is completed, all unsuccessful applicants will then be in the random drawing. Keep in mind, in units with low overall tag quotas, there may not be enough tags to issue any in the random draw.

When applying for elk hunts, applicants will have the option of applying with the preference point option. We recommend paying the preference point fee to gain a point if unsuccessful. The preference point fee is mandatory for moose and Bighorn sheep. Going into the 2019 draw, the maximum number of points an applicant could have is 24 for moose and sheep, and 13 for elk. Applicants points will revert to zero, if they draw their first choice only, or fail to purchase a preference point in the drawing or points only application period, for two consecutive years.

A separate "preference points only" application period will be conducted online from July 1- October 31. Applicants may apply for a hunt and obtain a preference

point if unsuccessful in the initial application period, OR the preference point only period, but not both.

**Resident/Nonresident Quotas:** Wyoming allocates up to 20-25% of permits to nonresidents depending on the species. Tags are set aside into a resident or nonresident pool for the draw. This allocation changes depending on the rounding of the tag quotas for the hunt or landowner tags issued during that season.

**Nonresident Special vs Regular Tag Fees:** Wyoming sets aside 40% of nonresident elk licenses for applicants paying a higher fee. These tags are referred to as the special full price licenses. The remaining 60% of nonresident licenses are referred to as the regular full price licenses. Applicants who pay the extra fees for these elk licenses will participate in a separate preference point and random computer drawing. In many cases, the drawing odds in the more expensive special drawing pool are generally better, but that is not always the case. Other than the difference in cost, there is no difference in the permits once drawn.

**Tag Types:** Wyoming issues their licenses in varying types, type 1 through 9. Consult the regulations for clarification on each hunt code you are considering. In general, "either sex," buck, bull, and ram permits are type 1 through type 3. Cow/doe/ewe licenses are generally type 4-8 licenses. Some units have type 9 permits which are archery only.

**Waiting Periods:** There are no waiting periods after drawing deer, elk, or antelope permits. Applicants successful in drawing the full price Bighorn sheep or moose tags must wait five years to next apply for or receive another full price Bighorn sheep or moose license. A Mountain goat type 1 license is a once-in-a-



lifetime license. If you drew a Mountain goat license after 1995, you may not apply again for a type 1 tag, but can apply for the type A tags. Any person who is issued an "Any Wild Bison" license and harvests a bull shall be ineligible to apply for an "Any Wild Bison" license in any future year.

**Group Applications:** Group applications will be accepted for all big game licenses except moose, Bighorn sheep, and Mountain goat. Nonresidents and residents may not apply in a group together. The maximum group size is 6. Wyoming averages the number of preference points held by the group individuals and does not round up or down. For example, two applicants with a combined 9 preference points will enter the draw with 4.5 points. If there is at least one tag available and a group application is drawn, all group applicants will receive a tag.

Group applications can be made by having the first group member, or party organizer, apply and check the party organizer box. Upon completing their application, the receipt will display the group party number which should be used by the other party members when they apply. The attaching party members will enter the party number when they apply, and the unit will already be chosen by the first party member to apply.

**Age Restrictions:** An applicant may apply for big game if they are 11 years of age at the time of application, but must be at least 12 years of age when hunting. Applicants must be 14 years of age prior to September 15 of the application year to hunt bison. To apply for preference points only, an applicant must be at least 12 years of age by December 31 of that year. Applicants less than 18 years of age and at least 11 years of age at the time of application may apply for a youth license and remit youth fees.

**Youth Applications/Fees:** Wyoming is a great state to apply youth for elk, deer, and antelope since they have much lower permit and preference point fees for youth. Youth applicants for sheep, goat, moose, and bison must remit the same fees as adults. Wyoming does not allocate a percentage of their buck or bull tags to the youth. **Note:** If you apply a youth for a special priced elk tag instead of the regular youth priced tag, they will be charged the special priced elk tag fee and not the reduced price youth fee.

**Hunter Education Requirements:** No person born on or after January 1, 1966, may take any wildlife by the use of firearms, on land other than that of his own family, unless the person possesses or can demonstrate they have obtained a certificate of competency and safety in the use and handling of firearms.

**Tag Transfers and Options Once Drawn:** Wyoming does not allow successful applicants to surrender their draw tags for refunds or points reinstatement. However, hunters can donate their big game licenses to the Department for reissue to disabled veterans or persons with permanent disabilities who use a wheelchair.

**Nonresident Outfitter Requirements in Wilderness Areas:** Nonresident big game or trophy game hunters are required to have a professional guide or a resident guide only if hunting in designated wilderness areas. Maps showing wilderness areas are available from the U.S. Forest Service. This requirement is unique to Wyoming and should be kept in mind if you're a self-guided hunter.

## WEAPON RESTRICTIONS

**Firearms Seasons:** Bighorn sheep, elk, moose, Mountain goat, or Black bear firearm hunters can use the following:



JASON BURNETT, ELK, WYOMING  
BOULDER BASIN OUTFITTERS



STEVE WILEY, ROCKY MTN BIGHORN  
WYOMING, WAPITI RIDGE OUTFITTERS





MILES FORTNER, ELK, WYOMING  
7D RANCH OUTFITTING



ALAN SLACK, ELK, WYOMING  
SHOSHONE LODGE OUTFITTERS

Any centerfire firearm of at least .24 caliber and firing a cartridge of at least 2" in overall length, or any other cartridge of at least .35 caliber and at least 1.5" in overall length, and using an expanding point bullet or any muzzle-loading rifle or any muzzle-loading handgun of at least .40 caliber and firing an expanding point bullet using a charge of at least 50 grains of black powder or its equivalent.

**Archery Seasons:** For the taking of antelope, Bighorn sheep, Black bear, deer, Mountain goat, and Mountain lion, a hunter shall use a longbow, recurve bow, or compound bow of not less than 40 pounds draw weight and an arrow equipped with a fixed or expanding point broadhead that when fully expanded cannot pass through a 7/8" solid ring.

For the taking of elk or moose, a hunter shall use a longbow, recurve bow, or compound bow of not less than 50 pounds draw weight and an arrow equipped with a fixed or expanding point broadhead that when fully expanded cannot pass through a 7/8" solid ring. For the taking of any big or trophy game animal with a crossbow, a hunter shall use a crossbow having a peak draw weight of at least 90 pounds and a bolt of at least 16" in length equipped with a fixed or expanding point broadhead that when fully expanded cannot pass through a 7/8" solid ring.

**Landowner Tags:** Wyoming has a program for qualifying landowners to apply for deer, elk, and antelope permits to be issued to landowners or their immediate family. Landowner tags in Wyoming are not transferable and are not legal to purchase from landowners.

**Raffle and Auction Tags:** Wyoming has a Super Tag Raffle program where one permit is drawn annually to hunt most units statewide for Bighorn sheep, moose, Mountain goat, bison, elk, deer, antelope, Black bear, and Mountain lion. A Super Tag Trifecta raffle is also drawn which allows one winner to choose three different species they wish to hunt. Chances can be purchased for \$10 for each species entry and \$30 for each Trifecta entry. You can purchase as many chances as you want and can buy them while you are online applying for other applications. Super Tag tickets must be purchased by July 1, 2019.

Wyoming also awards two types of tags to wildlife conservation groups to auction or raffle at various events each year. The first tags are called Governor tags, in which the buyer can hunt in most any unit in the state, during the open seasons, in every respective unit. Wyoming annually authorizes five Bighorn sheep, five Shiras Moose, five bison, and 10 tags that give the buyer the choice to redeem them for either deer, or elk, or antelope. These Governor tags are auctioned licenses.

They also offer permits called Commissioner licenses in which Wyoming Game and Fish Commissioners can choose wildlife or charity groups to award permits that they then can raffle or auction at their discretion. Typically, there are 50 or more of these Commissioners licenses authorized each year. They are valid for either a deer, or elk, or antelope, and the recipient must choose one unit, in which to hunt their chosen species, during the regular season of that unit. These tags are a way to hunt a unit without having to wait and draw a tag. For information go to page 30 in this magazine.



## OUR TAKE ON WYOMING

In this issue of Epic Outdoors Magazine, we cover Wyoming's Rocky Mountain Bighorn sheep, Shiras moose, Mountain goat, elk, and bison information as these species having the earliest application deadlines. We will cover deer and antelope application information and options later in the year since the application deadline for those two species isn't until May 31st. This also allows everyone to fully analyze what effect, if any, the winter has on the deer and antelope.

We are huge advocates of hunters applying for elk in Wyoming. There are many options for nearly every type of hunter and drawing odds really aren't that bad in most cases. There are very few elk units that are mostly public land, nonwilderness, low elevation areas that have great access and big bulls. If they do, the drawing odds are usually very bad. If you are willing to work around private land, hike or use horses, hunt in grizzly country, and/or hire an outfitter, then you should be applying in Wyoming for elk. If you're a "do it yourself" guy and are only interested in the absolute best top end trophy units, applying for elk in Wyoming is a bit tougher to justify unless you have a pile of preference points. Moose, sheep, goat, and bison hunters lucky enough to get drawn will have high quality hunts as well, with a few exceptions.

Keep in mind, in Wyoming there are four different application deadlines for nonresidents and three application periods for residents. It takes good planning to apply for hunts for multiple species or apply for points only, during the points only application period in the summer. Also remember, nonresident big game or trophy game hunters are required to have a licensed outfitter/guide or a Wyoming resident guide if hunting in designated wilderness areas, which greatly affects drawing odds for species like elk.

Wyoming has distanced itself from the "must apply for" status when it comes to sheep and moose, due to tag and preference point fee increases in relation to the tough odds of drawing these tags for nonresidents. They are not no brainers to apply for if you don't have a bunch of points built up already. Goat and bison have no bonus points issued for them so tags are issued randomly. Now that Wyoming will charge an additional 2.5% credit card processing fee, the up front, out of pocket tags fees for sheep, moose, goat and bison are really adding up, making it tougher to justify applying for them. We feel elk are definitely worth applying for in Wyoming, although there are a lot of factors involved in choosing a unit that is best for you, so study our tables and comments when considering if Wyoming is a fit for your elk hunting plans. Wyoming offers a wide variety of big game hunting options so if you decide to apply, we wish you luck in the draw!

**Refer to the regulations for hunt codes when applying.**

Wyoming Resources	
Unit Maps	<a href="https://epicoutdoors.com/services/map-center/">https://epicoutdoors.com/services/map-center/</a>
Epic Hunt Planner	<a href="https://epicoutdoorsmember.com/index.asp">https://epicoutdoorsmember.com/index.asp</a>
Wyoming 1:100,000 Scale Maps	Bureau of Land Management 307-775-6256 or <a href="http://www.blm.gov/maps">www.blm.gov/maps</a>
Public Lands Information Center- Maps	<a href="http://www.publiclands.org">www.publiclands.org</a>
Wyoming Game and Fish hunting regulations	<a href="http://wgfd.wyo.gov/regulations">wgfd.wyo.gov/regulations</a>
Wyoming 2019 hunt application booklet	<a href="http://wgfd.wyo.gov/Hunting/WGFD_APPNARRATIVE.pdf">wgfd.wyo.gov/Hunting/WGFD_APPNARRATIVE.pdf</a>
Regional offices list and units administered by each	Page 25 of the Wyoming 2019 hunt application booklet
Wyoming Unit Resources	<a href="http://wgfd.wyo.gov/hunting/hunt-planner">wgfd.wyo.gov/hunting/hunt-planner</a>

The screenshot shows the 'Epic Outdoors Map Center' website. It features a navigation bar with links like 'Home', 'Services', 'Products', 'About', 'Blog', 'Reviews', and 'Login'. Below the header, there are images of custom hunting maps and a section titled 'CUSTOM WATERPROOF HUNTING MAPS'. The text below this section says: 'Customize your own premium hunting map showing exact unit boundaries and much more. We've partnered with TopoGIS and MyTopo to provide our custom maps, featuring the Epic Outdoors logo along with many custom features. [Click here](#) to start a custom map. [Click here](#) to find a DNR hunting area, or BLM/State Park map.'

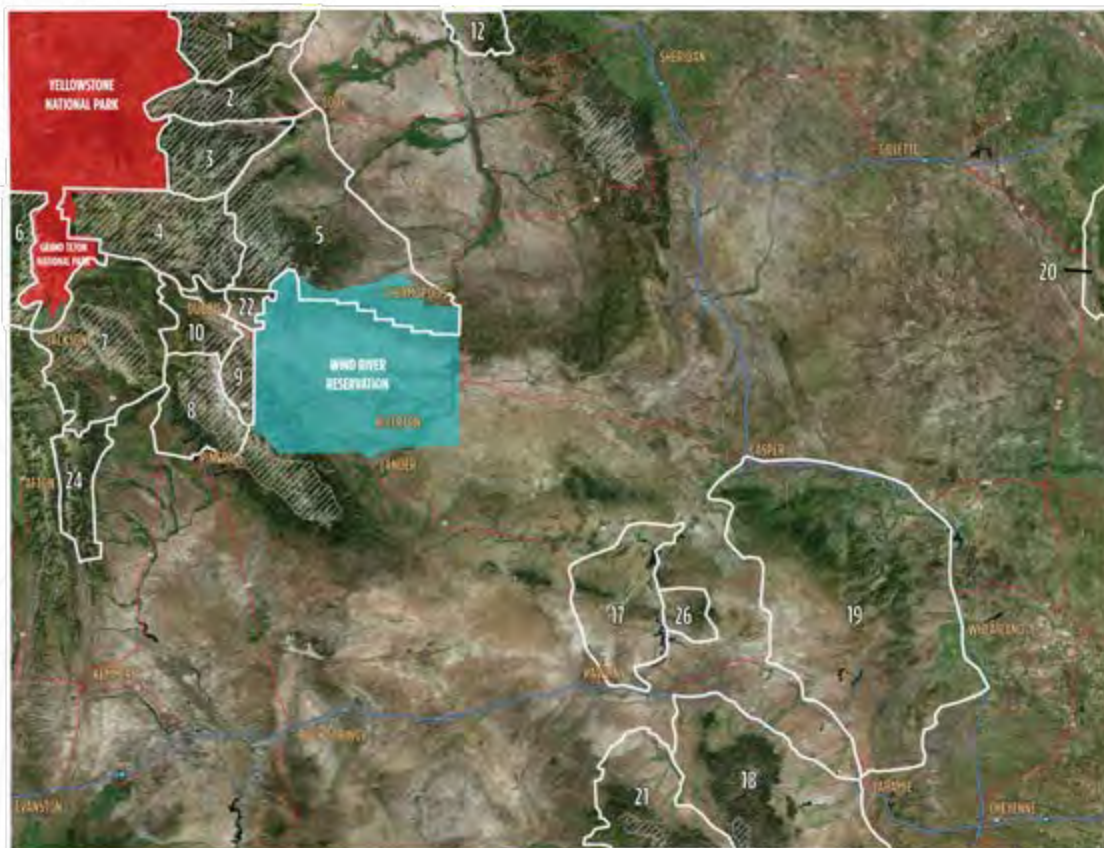
## GET CUSTOM UNIT SPECIFIC MAPS

We have numerous options available, you can even create your own custom maps with hunt boundaries.

Order your paper maps on our website by choosing Services and Map Center or visit:  
<https://goo.gl/3eaj3V>



## WYOMING BIGHORN SHEEP MAP



Note: Wilderness Area, Non-Residents Must Have Guides

TRIBAL LAND

NATIONAL PARKS AND REFUGES

\*DISCLAIMER: For exact boundaries refer to official game and fish maps. This map is for general reference only.

### ROCKY MOUNTAIN BIGHORN SHEEP

New for 2019, are a few new units available to nonresidents. Unit 6 is available again, but it is a very physically tough wilderness hunt for smaller rams adjacent to Grand Teton National Park. Unit 20 in the Black Hills in eastern Wyoming is again available and continues to provide nice rams and is physically easy. Unit 24 in the Wyoming Range is open to nonresidents for the first time since 2009, but has been open to residents the last 3 years. One tag will be drawn in unit 24 in 2019 and it will go to a nonresident. This hunter should have a great hunt and have the chance to take a really good ram.

Once again, sheep hunting reports this past season, from across the state, indicated good numbers and quality rams in nearly all units. The warmer weather during much of the sheep season in many units made the hunts more difficult in 2018. Rams were a bit tougher to dig up and in many areas were timbered up heavily. A few outstanding rams were taken in units like 3 and 19. However, there are still concerns over lower sheep numbers in recent years in some units such as units 1, 4,



BOB STROHMAN, ROCKY MTN BIGHORN, WYOMING  
CRANDALL CREEK OUTFITTERS



### Bighorn Sheep Preference Point Totals Going into the 2019 Draw

Number of Points	Resident Number of Sportpersons	Nonresident Number of Sportpersons
1	2147	1840
2	1453	1222
3	1081	871
4	937	673
5	779	589
6	706	465
7	623	512
8	571	462
9	506	353
10	500	371
11	423	361
12	441	358
13	395	304
14	371	302
15	374	372
16	316	396
17	316	386
18	306	365
19	229	350
20	173	76
21	153	46
22	142	29
23	90	27
24	29	7
Totals	13061	10737

and to some extent 5 due to hard winters in recent years. Sheep numbers in unit 1 have been reported to be way down resulting in hunters having a very tough year, with the lowest harvest success in many years.

Wyoming Bighorn sheep occupy a broad spectrum of habitat types, statewide. Most of their habitat we would classify as classic mountainous backcountry in the Rocky Mountains of western Wyoming, much of which is in designated wilderness. These units have classic alpine habitat and long, broken canyons draining from the high to the low country. The bulk of Wyoming's sheep populations occupy these types of mountainous areas, such as units 1-5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 24. The Snowy Range in south-central Wyoming and the northwest end of the Bighorn Mountains also have populations of Bighorn sheep, but they are in much less rugged country with much easier access. Sheep herds in units 17/26, 19, and 20 in eastern Wyoming are found in the lower mountain ranges and bluffs rising out of the Wyoming prairie. They too are not as physically difficult to access, but some of these sheep herds use both private and public lands, which causes a few access issues. We've listed all units open to nonresidents for 2019 in our tables.

Most mature rams in Wyoming will be 160-170" type rams, which are plenty good for nearly anyone wanting a Rocky. Some of the best rams harvested each year will score in the mid 170's with a few rams typically breaking

180". In general, units 12 and 19 often produce some of the best rams in the state, but with all the potential sheep habitat in units 1-10, an exceptional ram can slip through the cracks, grow old, and become something special there as well. The best ram in the state in any given year can pop up in just about any unit. We've listed the best and average sized rams from each unit in our tables.

Wyoming regulations require nonresidents to hire licensed outfitters or go with a Wyoming resident when hunting big game in designated wilderness areas. Units 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, parts of unit 5, and unit 10 have quite a bit of wilderness in them. Review our tables closely when considering which units to apply for, as we have given our opinions as to the self-guided vs guided possibilities in the comments section. In general terms, nonresidents will need to access wilderness and consider hiring an outfitter or be accompanied by a Wyoming resident in most, but not all, of the units in western Wyoming. Unit 5 can be effectively hunted without hiring an outfitter, even though there is wilderness within the unit. Units 10, 12, 17/26, 19, 20, 22, and 24 are also units that do not have any, or any significant amount of wilderness areas and can be hunted self-guided. Archery hunters typically can begin hunting 15 days prior to the opening of the respective rifle hunt in each unit. See final hunt regulations when approved in the spring of 2019.

We can't over emphasize enough that nonresident applicants, who don't have enough points to be in the preference point draw for a given unit, should make sure to apply for a unit that issues a tag(s) in the random drawing to have a chance to draw. Otherwise, they are fronting the permit fees and paying the application and point fee with ZERO chance to draw a permit. If you are applying for a unit and you don't have 17+ points, we highly recommend applying for units 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 to at least give yourself a shot at drawing a random draw



LANCE NEWMAN, ROCKY MTN BIGHORN, WYOMING  
WIND RIVER BACKCOUNTRY OUTFITTERS



tag. The odds of drawing a random tag are about on par with many western states random draw tags. If you have enough points to be close to drawing a tag in the preference point drawing, you should be applying to draw a tag. Point creep continues to happen at the top point levels, so get a tag if you can get one. If you can't go on a sheep hunt in 2019, apply for points only, during the summer application period. However, with the sheep bonus point fee now being \$150, we highly recommend applying for a random draw unit, to at least have a chance at drawing a permit, versus simply paying \$150 every year for points only and having no name in the hat.

From a nonresident perspective, our picks for the best trophy producing units in order of quality are: unit 19, then unit 12, with units 1-5 and units 7, 20, and 24 being very similar to each other in regards to the potential for a trophy ram.



DEAN DIJENNO, ROCKY MTN BIGHORN, WYOMING  
7D RANCH OUTFITTING

Bighorn Sheep												
Unit Type	2018 Rifle Season Dates - Expect Similar Dates for 2019	2018 Archery Season Dates - Expect Similar Dates for 2019	Total Tag Quota 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014	# of 2018 Nonres tags Pref Pt Tags and Random Tags	Resident Preference Point Draw Odds 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014	Resident Random Draw Odds 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014	Nonresident Preference Point Draw Odds 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014	Nonresident Random Draw Odds 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014	Best Ram and Age - 2018 2017 2016	Average Ram Size/Avg Age - 2018 2017 2016	Harvest Success - All Hunters 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014	Average Days/Harvest 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014
Our take on the hunt:												
1-1	Sept 1-Oct 31	Aug 15-31	20 20 20 20	4 PP, 1 random	20% with 16 71% with 16 89% with 16 100% with 15 44% with 14	1 in 104 1 in 89 1 in 95 1 in 99 1 in 82	8% with 18 80% with 18 38% with 17 100% with 17 75% with 15	1 in 346 1 in 226 1 in 277 1 in 296 1 in 141	35 2/8"x 15 2/8" 6 yrs 36 3/8"x 15" 5 yrs 36 1/8"x 13 6/8" 6 yrs	31 3/8"x 13 7/8" 6.3 yrs 31 1/8"x 14 2/8" 6.4 yrs 32"x 13 6/8" 6 yrs	43% 95% 90% 95% 86%	37 12 9 13 9
Has been a bit tougher to turn up an older ram, especially in 2018 where ram numbers seemed much lower and hunters experienced very tough hunts. Only 43% harvest success out of 20 hunters, the majority of which hunted many days. Rough backcountry, horseback unit with most sheep in wilderness. While 170" rams are possible, this unit is not usually known for the biggest rams in the state. Expect a tough physical hunt and be in shape. Time will tell, but this unit could be real tough for several years. Nonresidents should expect to hire an outfitter.												
2-1	Sept 1-Oct 31	Aug 15-31	24 24 24 24 25	5 PP, 1 random	19% with 18 100% with 18 64% with 18 29% with 17 54% with 16	1 in 105 1 in 114 1 in 110 1 in 117 1 in 96	33% with 19 57% with 19 30% with 18 67% with 17 33% with 17	1 in 361 1 in 414 1 in 275 1 in 196 1 in 402	37 4/8"x 15" 8 yrs 39 3/8"x 14 1/8" 9 yrs 35 4/8"x 14 5/8" 10 yrs	32 5/8"x 14 1/8" 7.3 yrs 33 6/8"x 14" 7.9 yrs 33"x 13 4/8" 7.6 yrs	79% 92% 75% 74% 78%	9 9 13 11 12
<b>One of the better nonresident units.</b> Great area that is a big backcountry unit with mostly wilderness. Some great rams can be turned up here. Classic horseback access where an outfitter is a must for nonresidents. Physical country with rams often in the timber. Unit doing well right now with the potential for a big ram. With snow, rams sometimes move lower and can be glassed from drainages with road access, but don't plan on an easy hunt.												
3-1	Sept 1-Oct 31	Aug 15-31	31 40 40 40 41	6 PP, 2 random	45% with 18 8% with 17 22% with 17 50% with 17 7% with 16	1 in 130 1 in 92 1 in 93 1 in 101 1 in 88	75% with 19 21% with 18 38% with 17 7% with 17 14% with 16	1 in 202 1 in 339 1 in 284 1 in 304 1 in 226	40 6/8"x 15" 10 yrs 36 2/8"x 14 3/8" 8 yrs 37 3/8"x 15 5/8" 8 yrs	31 2/8"x 13 6/8" 6.8 yrs 30 1/8"x 13 5/8" 5.8 yrs 30 4/8"x 13 6/8" 6.7 yrs	87% 80% 80% 75% 87%	9 13 9 13 9
<b>One of the better nonresident units.</b> A good unit for quality rams with a couple real big rams taken here in 2018, including a 183"! Horseback backcountry unit with mostly wilderness. Nonresidents expect to hire an outfitter. Sheep numbers doing well and you can usually look over plenty of rams in search of a great ram. Rams can migrate/move and hole up later in the season, with weather.												
4-1	Sept 1-Oct 31	Aug 15-31	25 23 21 20 12	6 PP, 1 random	18% with 17 89% with 17 86% with 16 100% with 16 71% with 16	1 in 100 1 in 106 1 in 96 1 in 95 1 in 147	10% with 18 13% with 17 14% with 17 67% with 16 25% with 15	1 in 407 1 in 227 1 in 328 1 in 43 No tag	39 4/8"x 13 7/8" 7 yrs 38 4/8"x 14 5/8" 14 yrs 37 5/8"x 14 6/8" 9 yrs	33 3/8"x 14 3/8" 8.2 yrs 30 4/8"x 14 1/8" 8.1 yrs 32 2/8"x 14 2/8" 7.6 yrs	79% 73% 90% 76% 68%	10 10 8 9 12
Remote backcountry wilderness unit with lower sheep densities than neighboring units. Mostly all wilderness where an outfitter is required for nonresidents. Some great rams taken here in 2016 and 2017, but unit seemed tougher to turn up the same ram numbers in 2018. Early in the season is normally better as weather can make it tough later on. Some areas are a long tough horse ride to access. Typically not an easy hunt, so be prepared to grind it out and be physically and mentally prepared for a tough hunt.												



## Bighorn Sheep

Unit Type	2018 Rifle Season Dates - Expect Similar Dates for 2019	2018 Archery Season Dates - Expect Similar Dates for 2019	Total Tag Quota 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014	# of 2018 Nonres tags Pref Pt Tags and Random Tags	Resident Preference Point Draw Odds 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014	Resident Random Draw Odds 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014	Nonresident Preference Point Draw Odds 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014	Nonresident Random Draw Odds 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014	Best Ram and Age - 2018 2017 2016	Average Ram Size/Avg Age - 2018 2017 2016	Harvest Success - All Hunters 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014	Average Days/Harvest 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014
Our take on the hunt:												
5-1	Sept 1-Oct 31	Aug 15-31	41 40 32 32 49	9 PP, 2 random	32% with 20 62% with 20 12% with 19 57% with 19 51% with 18	1 in 190 1 in 183 1 in 221 1 in 275 1 in 197	100% with 20 50% with 19 30% with 18 80% with 18 33% with 17	1 in 492 1 in 433 1 in 297 1 in 426 1 in 264	32 1/8"x 17 7/8" 8 yrs 35 7/8"x 15 4/8" 8 yrs 42 7/8"x 15" 10 yrs	32"x 14" 8.1 yrs 32 5/8"x 14 1/8" 7.8 yrs 32 2/8"x 14 2/8" 7.4 yrs	77% 91% 91% 81% 77%	8 8 9 10 13
A top unit with good quality and the only great option for unguided nonresidents. Huge unit with a variety of sheep country. Some remote wilderness country where an outfitter is needed for nonresidents. Has some easier access nonwilderness areas as well. Sheep numbers are lower than in the past, but quality rams still exist. Seems to have fewer older rams												
6-1	Aug 15-Oct 31	Aug 1-14	1 2 2 2 2	1 PP No random for 2019 No tag in 2018	50% with 16 100% with 16 100% with 17 100% with 15 33% with 14	No tag No tag No tag No tag No tag	No tag No tag 100% with 15 No tag 50% with 14	No tag No tag No tag No tag No tag	No harvest 28 6/8"x 12" 9 yrs 30 2/8"x 14 1/8" 6 yrs	No harvest 28 6/8"x 12" 9 yrs 30 2/8"x 14 1/8" 6 yrs	0% 50% 50% 33% 100%	N/A 18 8 65 7
Very tough wilderness unit directly adjacent to Grand Teton National Park on the west side. Not high sheep numbers and rams sometimes hang out inside the park. Not known for great genetics or big rams. Typically only has 1-2 permits a year and in 2019 there will only be 1 total tag, which will go to a nonresident. Nonresidents will need an outfitter or WY resident to hunt this unit, as the sheep are in designated wilderness. Expect a very physical hunt and a mental grind trying to dig up rams. If you have 18+ points, consider other units for a much better hunt.												
7-1	Sept 1-Oct 31	Aug 15-31	12 12 12 12 8	3 PP, No random	46% with 20 24% with 19 75% with 19 46% with 18 21% with 17	1 in 191 1 in 174 1 in 172 1 in 178 1 in 312	100% with 19 18% with 17 100% with 18 17% with 17 50% with 17	No tag No tag No tag No tag No tag	36 3/8"x 16 2/8" 6 yrs 35 5/8"x 15 6/8" 8 yrs 38"x 16 1/8" 8 yrs	28 2/8"x 14 2/8" 5.7 yrs 31 1/8"x 14 4/8" 7.8 yrs 30 3/8"x 14 4/8" 7.5 yrs	64% 67% 100% 82% 89%	17 11 13 18 8
Good unit for nonresidents with potential for a great ram. This unit seems to be conservatively managed and as a result, has really come on strong the past several years with some real good rams being taken. Wilderness backcountry hunt where an outfitter is needed for nonresidents. Rams can get timbered up at times.												
8-1	Sept 1-Oct 31	Aug 15-31	10 12 12 10 12	3 PP, No random	83% with 17 17% with 16 25% with 16 83% with 17 17% with 16	1 in 158 1 in 100 1 in 82 1 in 83 1 in 76	33% with 17 40% with 17 50% with 16 67% with 15 67% with 14	No tag No tag No tag No tag No tag	35 4/8"x 15 1/8" 9 yrs 35"x 14 1/8" 8 yrs 35 2/8"x 15 3/8" 9 yrs	32 7/8"x 14 1/8" 8.7 yrs 31 1/8"x 14 2/8" 7.7 yrs 31 2/8"x 14 4/8" 6.5 yrs	60% 55% 62% 67% 33%	12 25 16 30 26
Extremely rugged wilderness hunt. Outfitter required for nonresidents. Harvest rates here are lower, due to lower sheep numbers in scattered backcountry and some hunters being unprepared for this physical hunt. Some good rams available if you can hunt hard. Plan on being in great shape. Hunters put in some serious days to do well.												
9-1	Aug 15-Oct 15	Aug 1-14	4 4 4 4 4	1 PP, No random	50% with 15 50% with 15 100% with 13 100% with 16 100% with 12	No tag No tag No tag No tag No tag	50% with 18 100% with 17 100% with 18 50% with 15 100% with 16	No tag No tag No tag No tag No tag	37 5/8"x 15 1/8" 8 yrs 34 5/8"x 15 1/8" 8 yrs 36 5/8"x 15 5/8" 7 yrs	35 2/8"x 14 4/8" 9.3 yrs 34 2/8"x 15 1/8" 9.5 yrs 33 5/8"x 15 2/8" 6.7 yrs	100% 50% 75% 50% 75%	6 12 24 33 12
Tough backcountry wilderness unit that typically requires more hunting days than most other units to harvest a good ram. Outfitter required for nonresidents. Unit had a great year in 2018. Although it does not normally have the best rams in the state. Some good rams are available, but expect a tough hunt.												
10-1	Aug 15-Oct 15	Aug 1-14	4 8 8 8 8	1 PP, No random	40% with 20 83% with 20 45% with 19 18% with 18 50% with 18	No tag 1 in 144 1 in 128 1 in 152 1 in 169	100% with 21 100% with 19 67% with 18 25% with 17 50% with 16	No tag No tag No tag No tag No tag	31 6/8"x 13 6/8" 6 yrs 36"x 15 1/8" 8 yrs 34 4/8"x 15" 6 yrs	30"x 13 5/8" 5.5 yrs 30 6/8"x 14 1/8" 6.5 yrs 31 3/8"x 14 4/8" 7 yrs	50% 73% 60% 100% 88%	24 16 14 6 12
A tougher unit with smaller rams on average than other units. Some areas require backpacking to access sheep so be prepared for a physical hunt. Can consider it self-guided. Does have some wilderness and is grizzly country. Still an outfitter is suggested for best chances at a good ram. Some rams summer in unit 8 and don't come into 10 until later in the year with weather. Tough hunt in 2018.												
12-1	Aug 15-Oct 15	Aug 1-14	6 6 6 4 2	1 PP, No random	44% with 23 50% with 22 40% with 21 25% with 20 14% with 19	1 in 507 1 in 464 1 in 275 No tag No tag	100% with 23 33% with 21 25% with 21 33% with 20 No tag	No tag No tag No tag No tag No tag	33 7/8"x 16 1/8" 8 yrs 41 7/8"x 14 6/8" 7 yrs 38 5/8"x 16" 6 yrs	32 7/8"x 14 6/8" 7.8 yrs 34 6/8"x 15" 7.2 yrs 34 5/8"x 15" 7.3 yrs	100% 100% 100% 100% 100%	3 9 9 3 4
<b>One of the top two units in the state for trophy rams.</b> Has had only one nonresident permit per year. Not a physically difficult hunt. Private land controls access, with moderate trespass fees required, but can hunt self-guided. No wilderness or grizzlies. Great genetics with 175"-180"+ rams available. Expect to need 23 points, as a nonresident, to have a chance to draw in 2019.												



## Bighorn Sheep

Unit Type	2018 Rifle Season Dates - Expect Similar Dates for 2019	2018 Archery Season Dates - Expect Similar Dates for 2019	Total Tag Quota 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014	# of 2018 Nonres tags Pref Pt Tags and Random Tags	Resident Preference Point Draw Odds 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014	Resident Random Draw Odds 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014	Nonresident Preference Point Draw Odds 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014	Nonresident Random Draw Odds 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014	Best Ram and Age - 2018 2017 2016	Average Ram Size/Avg Age - 2018 2017 2016	Harvest Success - All Hunters 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014	Average Days/ Harvest 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014
Our take on the hunt:												
17-1	Sept 1 - Oct 31	Aug 15-31	4 2 2 1 1	1 PP, No random	29% with 22 29% with 21 100% with 21 17% with 19 50% with 18	No tag No tag No tag No tag No tag	50% with 21 No tag 100% with 20 No tag No tag	No tag No tag No tag No tag No tag	37 2/8"x 16 3/8" 5 yrs 34 6/8"x 16 2/8" 5 yrs N/A	33 1/8"x 15 4/8" 5.8 yrs 33 4/8"x 16 1/8" 4.5 yrs N/A	100% 100% 100% 100% 100%	10 8 21 6 1
Includes units 17 and 26. Lower elevation mountains and breaks type country, in south central Wyoming. No wilderness, so self-guided is an option. Not many old rams but genetics for big bases and good scoring rams. Unit seems to be stable allowing enough tags to again have a nonresident tag for 2019.												
19-1	Sept 1 - Oct 31	Aug 15-31	8 8 8 8	2 PP, No random	22% with 22 15% with 21 4% with 20 71% with 20 36% with 19	1 in 506 1 in 518 1 in 509 1 in 468 1 in 454	67% with 22 50% with 21 29% with 20 25% with 18 29% with 18	No tag No tag No tag No tag No tag	41 4/8"x 15 2/8" 11 yrs 38 5/8"x 15 6/8" 8 yrs 35 6/8"x 16 1/8" 8 yrs	35 3/8"x 14 6/8" 8.4 yrs 35 3/8"x 14 6/8" 8.1 yrs 34"x 15 1/8" 6 yrs	100% 100% 71% 89% 88%	9 25 13 10 15
<b>One of the top two units in the state for trophy rams.</b> Biggest ram in the state, in 2018, came from this unit. Lower elevation mountain terrain with no wilderness or grizzlies. Sheep are on some public, but private land is definitely key here. Plan on paying a trespass fee or hiring an outfitter to access more country. 180"+ potential. Expect to need 23 points, as a nonresident, to have a chance to draw in 2019.												
20-1	Sept 1 - Dec 31	Aug 15-31	3 2 2 2 2	1 PP No random for 2019 No tag In 2018	100% with 23 50% with 22 100% with 21 50% with 20 33% with 19	No tag No tag No tag No tag No tag	No tag 25% with 21 No tag 50% with 20 No tag	No tag No tag No tag No tag No tag	33 5/8"x 17 4/8" 5 yrs 35 1/8"x 15 4/8" 7 yrs 36"x 14 6/8" 6 yrs	33 3/8"x 15 7/8" 8 yrs 32 1/8"x 16" 6 yrs 34"x 14 7/8" 6 yrs	100% 100% 100% 100% 100%	3 2 4 2 12
Unit sits on the Wyoming and South Dakota border in the Black Hills. Sheep are found in easier terrain, in the breaks and bluffs, in lower elevation type sheep habitat. Some private land limits access but this has not hindered hunt success as it's been 100% for the past 5 years. Quality seems to be slightly down as tags have increased, in both states, but still a good hunt for 165-175" rams. We anticipate 2 resident and 1 nonresident tags drawn in 2019. Nonresidents should expect to have 22 or more points to have a chance at drawing in 2019.												
22-1	Sept 1 - Oct 31	Aug 15-31	4 4 4 4	1 PP, No random	67% with 20 67% with 19 100% with 20 50% with 18 100% with 18	No Tag No tag No tag No tag No tag	25% with 18 100% with 18 100% with 18 100% with 16 100% with 18	No tag No tag No tag No tag No tag	31"x 14 7/8" 4 yrs 30 4/8"x 15 3/8" 4 yrs 32"x 13 4/8" 7 yrs	31"x 14 7/8" 4 yrs 28"x 14 2/8" 3.5 yrs 30 5/8"x 13 5/8" 7 yrs	25% 67% 50% 100% 25%	16 19 11 7 48
Smaller unit with lower elevation breaks and bluff type country with no wilderness. Some sheep live on or adjacent to private lands. Generally not as big of rams as other units in the state. Rams drift into this unit from units 4 and 5 in late October but aren't always here before the end of the season. Can also hunt neighboring unit 5 October 1-31 which is a big plus. Can hunt self-guided in nonwilderness.												
24-1	Sept 1 - Oct 31	Aug 15-31	1 1 0 0	1 PP No random for 2019 No tag in 2018	50% with 23 33% with 22 25% with 21 No tag No tag	No tag No tag No tag No tag No tag	No tag No tag No tag No tag No tag	No tag No tag No tag No tag No tag	38 6/8"x 14 3/8" 8 yrs 32 3/8"x 13 4/8" 9 yrs 33"x 14 3/8" 8 yrs	38 6/8"x 14 3/8" 8 yrs 32 3/8"x 13 4/8" 9 yrs 33"x 14 3/8" 8 yrs	100% 100% 100% No Hunt No Hunt	2 4 2 N/A N/A
This unit is new for nonresidents, for the first time since 2009. Sheep originated from transplants from Whiskey Basin, WY in the 1980's. Unit was closed for several years and re-opened for residents only, the past 3 years. Unit is in the Darby Mountain area of the Wyoming Range of southwestern Wyoming. No wilderness, so hunting self-guided is definitely an option. Sheep are found mostly along the crest of the Wyoming Range from South Piney Creek to Sheep Creek. Does have some roads you could glass from long distances to higher elevations but you should expect to backpack or horseback in 3-6 miles to access the best sheep country. Hunters have been reporting good numbers of rams, in recent years, and a great ram was taken here in 2018. Expect to need 22 or more points to have a chance to draw this tag in 2019.												



## MORE ODDS ONLINE

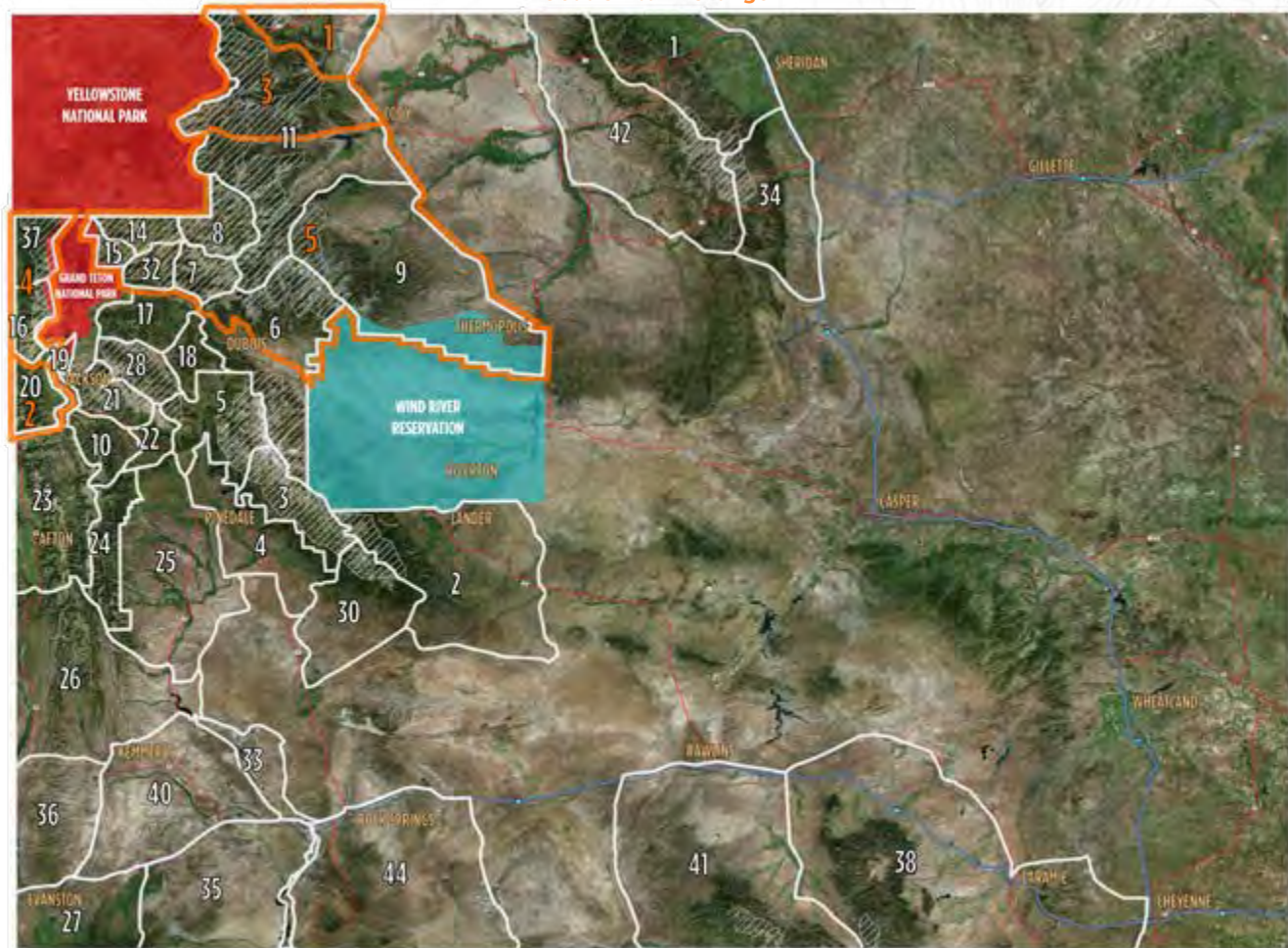
In the magazine we cover the top units in each state. For all other units, members can login to the Epic Hunt Planner at [epicoutdoors.com](http://epicoutdoors.com)





# WYOMING MOOSE & GOAT MAP

Goat Units in Orange



Note: Wilderness Area, Non-Residents Must Have Guides

MTN GOAT UNITS

MOOSE UNITS

TRIBAL LAND

NATIONAL PARKS AND REFUGES

\*DISCLAIMER: For exact boundaries refer to official game and fish maps. This map is for general reference only.

## MOOSE

Wyoming moose numbers are good but not great around most of the state, as predation and disease have severely reduced moose numbers over the past 10 years or so. Major point creep is occurring since tag cuts have resulted in fewer and fewer hunters drawing tags in the bonus point pool. This results in an extended wait to get a tag. It seems as though things may have bottomed out in some areas of the state, with good reports of calves surviving, as well as, a few more decent bulls showing up on units. The nonresident moose tag fees jumping in 2018 by nearly \$500, along with the bonus point fee increasing from \$75 to \$150 only adds to the nonresident frenzy of trying to draw their tags as soon as they can. The problem is, many don't quite have the points needed to draw and we don't see, in the immediate future, a solution to the log jam of applicants. It's a tough predicament to be in if you have a pile of moose points in Wyoming.



RICK MUNARETTO, SHIRAS MOOSE, WYOMING  
TROPHY MOUNTAIN OUTFITTERS





JEFF JONES, SHIRAS MOOSE, WYOMING  
BARLOW OUTFITTING

For the time being, hunters that have accumulated a bunch of points are going to have to likely wait a lot longer to get a tag than they had planned on years ago. The wait will be especially long for nonresident hunters with less than about 15-16 preference points. Their only immediate hope of drawing a moose tag is in the random drawing, where there were only six nonresident bull tags issued in 2018, on five different units.

There is a big bottleneck of nonresident moose applicants with 18-19 points. For nonresident applicants with 17+ points, the competition in the preference point draw for drawing tags on units that usually have 1-3 tags per unit, will continue to be tough. Keep in mind, Wyoming issues about 20% of the total moose tags to nonresidents and of those, 75% of the tags in each unit go to applicants with the most points and the other 25%, if any, go in the random draw.

Nonresident applicants who don't have enough points to be in the preference point draw for a given unit should either apply for points only, or choose a unit that issues a tag(s) in the random drawing. Otherwise, they are fronting the permit fees and paying the application and point fee with ZERO chance to draw a permit. Units that issued nonresident random draw permits in 2018 were 5, 24, 25, 26, and 38 which will most likely be similar for 2019, unless the quotas change this year when final permit numbers within the units are set in April. If you have 15+ points, study our moose table and apply for a unit you might have a chance to pull a preference point tag. Keep in mind, the points required to draw this year will totally depend on the way applicants apply in the draw. So a unit could jump up by a point or two, or even more. Quite simply, moose tags are very tough to get in Wyoming right now, and we don't see a dramatic improvement in the tag situation, in the immediate future.

Units 1, 34, and 42 in the Bighorn Mountains and units 38

and 41 in the Snowy Range are currently the best units that produce trophy bulls consistently. All other units in the state may have a few big 50" type bulls surface here and there, but not in regular occurrence. Most areas of the state have 40"+ bulls, but some units don't have many of them. It seems as though top end bull quality in unit 38/41 is not as good as it has been, as increased harvest by draw and governor tag hunters keeps the top end bulls skimmed off each year. Unit 42 may be the best unit in the state for a trophy bull but there is only one nonresident tag issued, which will take 20 or more points to draw in 2019.

With so few nonresident random draw tags, it's hard to convince anyone with minimal points to continue to apply in Wyoming for moose, especially now that the point fees have climbed to \$150. If you really want a Shiras moose or feel too invested to quit, we suggest looking at lesser known units to simply draw a tag and go hunting rather than holding out for the unit or two you've had your minds set on drawing. With the wilderness law in Wyoming requiring nonresidents to hire an outfitter, many of the units taking fewer points to draw may require you to hire an outfitter to access the wilderness or hunt units with heavy private land. Many hunters with very few points have simply thrown in the towel on applying for Wyoming moose. Good luck to those of you that continue to apply!

### Moose Preference Point Totals Going into the 2019 Draw

Number of Points	Resident Number of Sportspersons	Nonresident Number of Sportspersons
1	3379	1671
2	2265	1158
3	1939	889
4	1636	672
5	1337	609
6	1145	496
7	1102	483
8	947	468
9	1010	423
10	883	434
11	837	454
12	799	431
13	690	438
14	577	503
15	485	619
16	365	571
17	293	509
18	256	390
19	222	239
20	167	34
21	184	20
22	209	7
23	186	6
24	39	2
Totals	20952	11526



## Moose

Unit - Type	2018 Rifle Season Dates - Expect Similar Dates for 2019	2018 Archery Season Dates - Expect Similar Dates for 2019	Total Tag Quota - 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014	# of 2018 Nonresident tags - Pref Point Tags and Random Tags	Resident Odds Preference Point Draw 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014	Resident Odds Random Draw 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014	Nonresident Preference Point Draw Odds 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014	Nonresident Random Draw Odds 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014	Harvest Success- All Hunters 2017 2016 2015 2014 2013
Our take on the hunt:									
1-1	Oct 1-31	Sept 15-30	5 5 10 10 15	1 PP, No random	33% with 23 27% with 22 32% with 21 21% with 20 20% with 19	1 in 1076 1 in 1214 1 in 540 1 in 629 1 in 443	5% with 18 10% with 17 6% with 16 50% with 16 100% with 15	No tag No tag No tag No tag No tag	100% 90% 100% 90% 90%
Northern Bighorn Mountains. Nonwilderness unit that used to be one of the best units in the state, but quality has slipped and tag numbers have been cut. Still a good hunt for mostly average bulls.									
2-1	Oct 1- Nov 20	Sept 1-30	5 5 Combined in 2017	1 PP, No random	100% with 20 100% with 20 Combined in 2017	1 in 233 1 in 254 Combined for 2017	33% with 16 100% with 16 New in 2017	No tag No tag New in 2017	100% 90% 60% 80% 78%
Eastern tip of the Wind River Range. Mostly nonwilderness. These units were combined in 2017 and tag numbers have been cut from what was issued, for both units combined. Low moose numbers, in a big area, with an occasional big bull. Can be done self-guided with some homework. Also valid in unit 30.									
3-1	Sept 20-Oct 31	Sept 1-19	5 10 10 10 10	1 PP, No random	33% with 13 25% with 12 100% with 12 100% with 13 60% with 11	1 in 113 1 in 52 1 in 52 1 in 63 1 in 49	50% with 17 50% with 16 100% with 15 67% with 15 50% with 14	No tag No tag No tag No tag No tag	100% 90% 90% 100% 100%
In the heart of the Wind River Range. Nearly all wilderness, so nonresidents should expect to need an outfitter. Tough access into rough country. Not known for huge bulls. Also valid in unit 4.									
4-1	Sept 20-Oct 31	Sept 1-19	10 10 10 10 10	2 PP, No random	100% with 15 63% with 14 20% with 13 80% with 13 38% with 12	1 in 82 1 in 86 1 in 80 1 in 68 1 in 57	25% with 17 100% with 16 100% with 16 33% with 15 50% with 13	No tag No tag No tag No tag No tag	100% 100% 100% 90% 100%
Western foothills of the Wind River Mountains off of national forest lands. Most moose are on private lands so expect to work to find and secure access. Has produced some good bulls in recent years. Also valid in unit 3, which is mostly wilderness.									
5-1	Oct 1-31	Sept 1-30	25 25 25 30 30	4 PP, 1 random	56% with 14 50% with 13 82% with 13 58% with 12 8% with 11	1 in 83 1 in 81 1 in 78 1 in 63 1 in 50	17% with 16 7% with 15 11% with 14 29% with 13 22% with 12	1 in 171 1 in 83 1 in 76 1 in 70 1 in 31	96% 100% 93% 84% 92%
Used to be a real good moose unit but quality has slipped. Half wilderness and half outside the wilderness. Some private lands hold moose as well. Can be done self-guided. Unit has consistently had a random tag for nonresidents.									
6-1	Oct 1-Nov 20	Sept 1-30	5 5 5 5 5	1 PP, No random	50% with 21 100% with 19 33% with 18 50% with 16 100% with 17	1 in 254 1 in 236 1 in 220 1 in 222 1 in 196	50% with 17 100% with 19 100% with 15 50% with 13 50% with 13	No tag No tag No tag No tag No tag	100% 100% 80% 100% 100%
Big unit with some wilderness and plenty of nonwilderness country to hunt. Moose numbers are improving and the unit does hold some older bulls, if you can dig them up. Hunt typically extends to November 20th. Expect to use an outfitter to hunt the entire unit, or plan on plenty of days and hope to get a break to find a big bull in the nonwilderness.									
9-1	Oct 1-31	Sept 1-30	5 5 5 4 5	1 PP, No random	40% with 20 33% with 20 75% with 20 50% with 19 14% with 18	1 in 137 1 in 136 1 in 117 1 in 129 1 in 141	100% with 18 100% with 17 100% with 14 100% with 14 100% with 12	No tag No tag No tag No tag No tag	100% 100% 100% 83% 100%
Huge unit with lower moose densities but a few big bulls available, if you have plenty of time to look. Some wilderness, may consider an outfitter for best success since moose densities are low and scattered.									
10-1	Sept 15-Oct 31	Sept 1-14	8 10 15 14 15	1 PP, No random	40% with 11 33% with 11 50% with 9 70% with 10 80% with 10	1 in 85 1 in 80 1 in 30 1 in 38 1 in 39	100% with 17 40% with 15 100% with 15 67% with 13 33% with 12	No tag No tag No tag No tag No tag	56% 73% 71% 81% 67%
Nonwilderness but steep and rough country that is mostly roadless. Predation has hurt moose numbers, but some quality bulls are being seen again. Could hunt self-guided, but be prepared for a tough physical hunt and have plenty of time to turn up a big bull.									



Moose									
Unit - Type	2018 Rifle Season Dates - Expect Similar Dates for 2019	2018 Archery Season Dates - Expect Similar Dates for 2019	Total Tag Quota - 2017 2016 2015 2014	# of 2018 Nonresident tags - Pref Point Tags and Random Tags	Resident Odds Preference Point Draw 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014	Resident Odds Random Draw 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014	Nonresident Preference Point Draw Odds 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014	Nonresident Random Draw Odds 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014	Harvest Success- All Hunters 2017 2016 2015 2014 2013
Our take on the hunt:									
11-1	Sept 10-Nov 10	Sept 1-9	5 5 5 3 5	1 PP, No random	50% with 21 25% with 20 25% with 19 100% with 19 22% with 17	1 in 255 1 in 229 1 in 202 1 in 153 1 in 148	33% with 17 50% with 10 33% with 15 100% with 14 100% with 12	No tag No tag No tag No tag No tag	100% 100% 100% 100% 80%
Huge unit with scattered moose numbers and a long season. Plenty of wilderness horseback country, but does have some nonwilderness lower country. Nonresidents should expect to use an outfitter, but hunters can still harvest a good bull.									
16-1	Sept 15-Nov 15	Sept 1-14	5 5 5 5 5	1 PP, No random	100% with 21 50% with 13 100% with 13 25% with 12 50% with 12	1 in 81 1 in 62 1 in 56 1 in 53 1 in 53	11% with 18 100% with 17 11% with 15 33% with 14 100% with 14	No tag No tag No tag No tag No tag	60% 100% 80% 100% 100%
<b>One of the better moose units in the state.</b> Remote wilderness and nonwilderness horseback unit. Expect to go deep, with an outfitter, or use your own horses. Some big bulls available. Can be good late in the season to hunt the bulls as they come out of Teton National Park. Potential for a great bull! Includes units 16 and 37.									
17-1	Sept 15-Oct 31	Sept 1-14	5 5 5 5 5	1 PP, No random	100% with 16 50% with 16 100% with 15 67% with 15 100% with 15	1 in 110 1 in 126 1 in 125 1 in 114 1 in 106	100% with 19 100% with 21 100% with 16 20% with 13 100% with 13	No tag No tag No tag No tag No tag	80% 100% 100% 100% 100%
Some nonwilderness country with easier access, but plenty of horseback and wilderness as well. An occasional big bull but numbers are not doing well. Wolves have hurt this unit, don't apply without inside knowledge or plan on using an outfitter. Includes units 17 and 28.									
18-1	Oct 1-31	Sept 1-30	5 5 5 5 5	1 PP, No random	100% with 15 100% with 13 33% with 11 100% with 11 50% with 11	1 in 56 1 in 64 1 in 58 1 in 53 1 in 61	33% with 16 33% with 15 100% with 14 50% with 14 100% with 11	No tag No tag No tag No tag No tag	100% 100% 80% 100% 100%
Nonwilderness unit, but tough country and not typically producing huge bulls. Expect to use an outfitter or your own horses to access.									
20-1	Sept 15-Oct 31	Sept 1-14	15 15 15 15 15	3 PP, No random	100% with 12 50% with 11 36% with 10 33% with 10 78% with 11	1 in 60 1 in 65 1 in 63 1 in 63 1 in 55	17% with 16 67% with 16 20% with 15 38% with 14 17% with 13	No tag No tag No tag No tag No tag	87% 87% 87% 100% 90%
Nonwilderness public land unit. Can be hunted self-guided. Quality and numbers have declined, but seem to have leveled out and a few big bulls being seen again. Some horseback country with some easier access areas as well. A few mid 40" bulls being taken. Expect to work hard for a great bull.									
21-1	Sept 15-Oct 31	Sept 1-14	2 5 5 5 5	1 PP, No random	100% with 13 33% with 10 100% with 10 50% with 11 100% with 11	No tag 1 in 36 1 in 45 1 in 62 1 in 61	100% with 17 100% with 15 100% with 14 50% with 13 100% with 13	No tag No tag No tag No tag No tag	60% 80% 20% 25% 80%
Unit has really been hurt by wolves and disease. Plenty of wilderness. Not a great unit right now. Don't apply without some inside information on a specific big bull or two.									
22-1	Oct 1-31	Sept 1-30	5 5 10 15 15	1 PP, No random	50% with 12 33% with 12 25% with 11 22% with 10 75% with 10	1 in 40 1 in 75 1 in 59 1 in 37 1 in 32	100% with 15 50% with 15 67% with 14 33% with 13 60% with 12	No tag No tag No tag No tag No tag	89% 100% 100% 93% 100%
Easy access public land, nonwilderness unit. Can hunt self-guided. Not producing trophy moose, but hunters will kill an average bull here. Tag numbers continue to drop.									
23-1	Sept 15-Oct 31	Sept 1-14	15 15 20 19 25	3 PP, No random	83% with 13 20% with 12 78% with 12 13% with 11 60% with 11	1 in 83 1 in 90 1 in 55 1 in 69 1 in 54	40% with 17 100% with 17 33% with 15 20% with 14 27% with 13	No tag No tag 1 in 106 1 in 84 1 in 54	87% 100% 95% 88% 92%
Quality seems to be coming back slightly as tag numbers have been cut. Big public land nonwilderness unit. Could hunt self-guided here or with an outfitter using horses. Don't expect a giant, but some nice bulls available.									
24-1	Sept 15-Oct 31	Sept 1-14	20 20 25 25 25	3 PP, 1 random	56% with 13 44% with 12 100% with 12 43% with 11 63% with 11	1 in 61 1 in 67 1 in 46 1 in 53 1 in 51	25% with 17 43% with 16 50% with 15 31% with 14 23% with 13	1 in 110 1 in 134 1 in 73 1 in 89 1 in 166	90% 88% 88% 84% 100%
Mostly average quality. Public land nonwilderness. Expect to look hard for a big bull. Can be hunted self-guided or with an outfitter using horses. Unit has consistently had a random tag for nonresidents.									



## Moose

Unit - Type	2018 Rifle Season Dates - Expect Similar Dates for 2019	2018 Archery Season Dates - Expect Similar Dates for 2019	Total Tag Quota - 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014	# of 2018 Nonresident tags - Pref Point Tags and Random Tags	Resident Odds Preference Point Draw 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014	Resident Odds Random Draw 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014	Nonresident Preference Point Draw Odds 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014	Nonresident Random Draw Odds 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014	Harvest Success- All Hunters 2017 2016 2015 2014 2013
Our take on the hunt:									
25-1	Oct 1-31	Sept 1-30	45 45 45 45 45	7 PP, 2 random	32% with 13 45% with 13 54% with 12 13% with 11 50% with 11	1 in 83 1 in 73 1 in 60 1 in 61 1 in 51	80% with 18 16% with 16 16% with 15 29% with 14 32% with 13	1 in 165 1 in 106 1 in 99 1 in 72 1 in 63	100% 95% 100% 98% 96%
Some great bulls on this unit. Big unit with a lot of private land that limits access. Expect to hire an outfitter or pay to have private land access in this unit. Not a physically tough hunt. Not a good choice for the public land, self-guided hunter. Unit has consistently had random tags for nonresidents.									
26-1	Oct 1-31	Sept 1-30	32 32 40 45 50	5 PP, 1 random	7% with 15 48% with 15 25% with 14 18% with 13 71% with 13	1 in 142 1 in 147 1 in 122 1 in 93 1 in 72	71% with 18 7% with 16 50% with 16 3% with 14 64% with 14	1 in 193 1 in 307 1 in 142 1 in 132 1 in 92	100% 90% 98% 98% 98%
Big, public land, nonwilderness unit. Great for the self-guided hunter. Some moderately rough country, but plenty of easier access terrain. Mostly average bulls with an occasional big bull. Great unit just to fill a tag. Unit has consistently had a random tag for nonresidents.									
27-1	Oct 1-Nov 20	Sept 1-30	12 12 15 14 15	2 PP, No random	25% with 12 38% with 12 33% with 12 83% with 12 71% with 11	1 in 111 1 in 120 1 in 74 1 in 74 1 in 55	100% with 18 29% with 15 40% with 14 100% with 14 67% with 13	No tag No tag No tag No tag No tag	100% 100% 100% 100% 87%
Mostly private land but does hold some pretty good bulls with trophy bull potential. Expect to hire an outfitter or must have private land access. Easy terrain, no wilderness or horses needed.									
34-1	Oct 1-31	Sept 15-30	10 5 5 5 10	2 PP, No random	38% with 22 13% with 21 75% with 21 33% with 20 43% with 19	1 in 297 1 in 664 1 in 601 1 in 705 1 in 380	40% with 18 100% with 21 8% with 16 100% with 16 22% with 14	No tag No tag No tag No tag No tag	100% 100% 100% 80% 100%
<b>One of the better moose units in the state.</b> Southern Bighorn Mountains unit with historically big bulls, but quality and numbers are down. Total tag numbers were increased in 2018 to 10 with 2 going to nonresidents. Still a few good bulls available. Mostly nonwilderness, but in mountainous terrain.									
35-1	Oct 1-Nov 20	Sept 1-30	3 3 5 5 5	1 PP, No random	100% with 12 100% with 13 33% with 12 33% with 11 100% with 11	No tag No tag 1 in 74 1 in 63 1 in 52	50% with 16 100% with 15 100% with 14 100% with 15 50% with 13	No tag No tag No tag No tag No tag	100% 80% 80% 60% 100%
Lower numbers of scattered moose. Easy access in lower elevation, open sagebrush type country. Don't expect a big bull. Plenty of public land.									
36-1	Oct 1-31	Sept 1-30	5 5 New in 2017	1 PP, No random	100% with 14 100% with 14 New in 2017	1 in 62 1 in 98 New in 2017	100% with 18 100% with 17 New in 2017	No tag No tag New in 2017	100% New in 2017
Unit had been combined with units 33 and 40, but is now on it's own. Scattered moose numbers across open sagebrush, aspen patch type country. Easy access in lower elevation. Don't expect a big bull. Plenty of public land.									
38-1	Oct 1-Nov 14	Sept 1-30	20 20 20 20 20	3 PP, 1 random	14% with 22 12% with 21 4% with 20 1% with 19 63% with 19	1 in 712 1 in 719 1 in 657 1 in 674 1 in 639	20% with 20 43% with 19 29% with 18 100% with 18 40% with 16	1 in 584 1 in 641 1 in 606 1 in 560 1 in 455	100% 100% 83% 100% 90%
<b>One of the top trophy units in the state</b> but quality is slipping with increased harvest and added Governor tag hunters. Has been a top trophy producing unit, with a few real big bulls, but the cream has been taken off this unit a bit more each year. Still a good choice with some big bulls available. Some private land does limit access, but plenty of public land, nonwilderness and no grizzlies. Can hunt self-guided. Unit has consistently had a random tag for nonresidents. Includes units 38 and 41.									
40-1	Oct 1-31	Sept 1-30	3 3 New in 2017	1 PP, No random	100% with 14 100% with 14 New in 2017	No tag No tag New in 2017	100% with 15 100% with 15 New in 2017	No tag No tag New in 2017	100% New in 2017
Was combined with units 33 and 36 in the past. Scattered moose numbers across open sagebrush, aspen patch type country. Easy access in lower elevation. Don't expect a big bull. Plenty of public land.									
42-1	Oct 1-31	Sept 15-30	5 5 5 5 5	1 PP, No random	50% with 23 27% with 22 33% with 21 20% with 20 27% with 19	1 in 483 1 in 528 1 in 434 1 in 516 1 in 453	20% with 19 100% with 19 100% with 19 100% with 17 50% with 16	No tag No tag No tag No tag No tag	100% 100% 80% 100% 100%
<b>Best trophy moose unit in the state.</b> Western slope of the Bighorn Mountains, big unit with limited wilderness. Low tag numbers and excellent quality. But no random draw tag for nonresidents. Expect to have 20 or more NR points to draw in 2019.									



## MOUNTAIN GOAT

Wyoming is a good state to consider applying for if you need a Mountain goat. There is no bonus point system for goats, but you do have to front the tag fees at the time of application. In 2018, Wyoming issued 40 Mountain goat permits through the draw, 10 of which went to nonresidents. Harvest success remains very high at 90-100% on all units. Hunters and outfitters we talk to continue to report good goat numbers, although increased harvest in unit 3 has resulted in tougher hunts and not as many older billies available.

New for 2019, Wyoming is opening up units 4 and 5 for opportunity type goat hunting, in these areas, where goats have been pioneering in from neighboring units. The areas within units 4 and 5 are mostly wilderness and have very few goats. Wyoming Game and Fish wants to maintain these areas as preferred critical habitat for native Bighorn sheep herds, and thus, does not want to establish Mountain goat populations in these areas. Their intention was to issue general (non-draw) tags for these areas and simply let hunters buy tags and try to harvest goats in these areas. However, state statute currently requires Mountain goat permits to be issued 75% to residents, and 25% to nonresidents, which does not allow for general season type tags to be sold. This is the reason they must draw tags for these hunt areas in 2019. Tag numbers are expected to be low since these are not expected to be great hunts. Hunters should



DAKOTA TAYLOR, MTN GOAT, WYOMING  
CRANDALL CREEK OUTFITTERS

be prepared for minimal to no goat sightings and low harvest success. Hopefully this statutory change can happen in the near future, to increase goat hunting opportunity in these areas. Apply for these areas at your own risk. The once-in-a-lifetime provision does not apply for these area 4 and 5 type A goat tags.



CLAY BEARD, MTN GOAT, WYOMING  
7 D RANCH OUTFITTING

Wyoming goat hunts in units 1-3 aren't brutally difficult by goat hunt standards, so they offer opportunities for most hunters to be successful with moderate physical preparation. Unit 1 can be easier to hunt with simple day hunts being effective in many portions of the unit outside the wilderness. Goat numbers in unit 1 have dropped some resulting in tag reductions last year. Units 2 and 3 require longer hikes or horseback rides into goat country, and are more physical overall. These goat hunts are great backcountry experiences, especially in unit 3. Most nonresidents should plan on enlisting some help from an outfitter, due to wilderness.

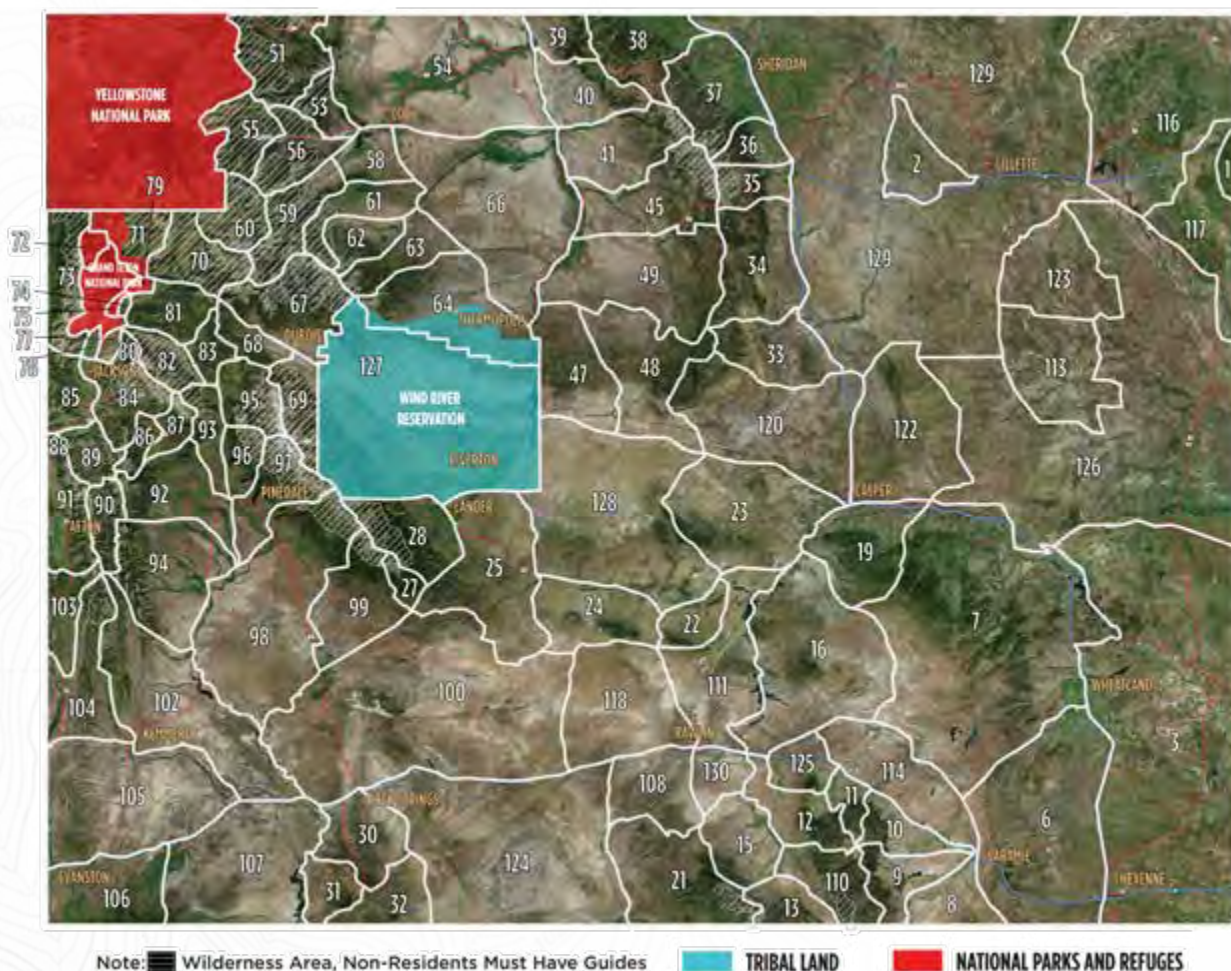
Although Wyoming isn't known for producing B&C goats, if you simply want to harvest a goat someday we consider it a must apply for state. Unit 2 seems to be the best trophy goat unit in the state and can be hunted outside of wilderness. Goat tags are issued by random drawing with everyone on the same level playing field. If you want a classic Mountain goat hunt in the lower 48, we suggest applying in Wyoming.



Mountain Goat										
Unit -Type	2018 Rifle Season Dates Expect Similar for 2019	2018 Archery Season Dates Expect Similar for 2019	Total Tag Quota - 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014	# of Nonresident Tags - 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014	Resident Random Draw Odds 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014	Nonresident Random Draw Odds 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014	Best Goat/ Age- 2018 2017 2016	Average Goat/ Age - 2018 2017 2016	Harvest Success - All Hunters 2017 2016 2015 2014 2013	Average Days/ Harvest 2017 2016 2015 2014 2013
Our take on the hunt:										
1-1	Sept 1-Oct 31	Aug 15-31	8 12 12 12 14	2 3 3 3 4	1 in 203 1 in 140 1 in 155 1 in 168 1 in 152	1 in 198 1 in 86 1 in 76 1 in 83 1 in 43	9 4/8"x 5 4/8" 8 yrs 8 5/8"x 5 3/8" 8 yrs 10"x 5 5/8" 7 years	8 1/8"x 4 4/8" 5.4 yrs 8"x 4 2/8" 5.1 yrs 8 7/8"x 4 7/8" 5.5 years	100% 100% 100% 100% 86%	5 3 8 5 7
Great hunt with some wilderness and some nonwilderness. Could be done self-guided or with an outfitter. High success hunt for nice goats. Goat numbers have declined some, but still a good hunt. Hunters killed 4 billys and 4 nannies in 2018. Hunters killed 4 billys and 9 nannies in 2017.										
2-1	Sept 1-Oct 31	Aug 15-31	8 8 12 12 8	2 2 3 3 2	1 in 250 1 in 251 1 in 157 1 in 153 1 in 217	1 in 274 1 in 251 1 in 194 1 in 138 1 in 232	9 4/8"x 5 4/8" 7 yrs 10 2/8"x 5 2/8" 5 yrs 9 7/8"x 5 7/8" 7 years	8 5/8"x 5 3/8" 6.7 yrs 8 4/8"x 4 7/8" 5.3 yrs 8 7/8"x 5 2/8" 5.3 years	100% 90% 100% 100% 88%	4 6 6 4 11
Typically produces the best scoring goats in the state, but B&C goats are not common. Nonwilderness, but still a backpack or horseback style hunt, so be physically prepared. Could go self-guided or guided. Hunters killed 5 billys and 2 nannies in 2018 and 5 billys and 4 nannies in 2017.										
3-1	Sept 1-Oct 31	Aug 15-31	16 12 8 8 6	4 3 2 2 1	1 in 67 1 in 73 1 in 106 1 in 124 1 in 131	1 in 50 1 in 55 1 in 40 1 in 58 1 in 45	9"x 5 1/8" 8 yrs 9 4/8"x 5 4/8" 6 yrs 9 1/8"x 5 3/8" 6 years	8 3/8"x 4 5/8" 4.2 yrs 8 5/8"x 4 5/8" 5 yrs 8 5/8"x 4 7/8" 4.5 years	75% 100% 100% 83% 83%	9 3 4 10 3
Big unit with scattered goat numbers that have been hunted aggressively. Tag increases have resulted in fewer older goats available. Goats often found in scattered pockets throughout the unit. Mostly wilderness and an outfitter is recommended for nonresidents. Some goats are deep towards the Park. Success rates have remained high, but tougher to find an older billy. Hunters killed 17 billys and 5 nannies, combined, on both hunts in 2018. Hunters killed 12 billys and 5 nannies, combined, on both hunts in 2017.										
3-2	Oct 1-31	Aug 15-31	8 8 8 New in 2016	2 2 2 New in 2016	1 in 47 1 in 65 1 in 24 New in 2016	1 in 36 1 in 74 1 in 26 New in 2016	9"x 5 1/8" 8 yrs 9 4/8"x 5 4/8" 6 yrs 9 1/8"x 5 3/8" 6 years	8 3/8"x 4 5/8" 4.2 yrs 8 5/8"x 4 5/8" 5 yrs 8 5/8"x 4 7/8" 4.5 years	100% 100% New in 2016	12 5 New in 2016
Same as the 3-1 hunt, but this hunt is only the month of October. Expect a bit tougher hunt with poorer weather.										
4-A	Sept 1-Oct 31	Aug 15-31	New in 2018	New in 2018	New in 2018	New in 2018	New in 2018	New in 2018	New in 2018	New in 2018
New hunt type and once-in-a-lifetime rule doesn't apply. Hunt area is north of unit 2 along the western side of Grand Teton National Park and goats are likely in designated wilderness and may be inside the Park where hunting is not allowed. This hunt is an opportunity hunt aimed at trying to harvest goats that have wandered from unit 2, dispersing into habitat preferred for native Bighorn sheep. Very physically tough hunt and low harvest expected, as goat numbers are very low. Not a hunt recommended for nonresidents since the cost of the tag and outfitter are a lot to risk for the slim chance you'll find a great goat. It is anticipated that there will be 3 resident and 1 nonresident tags issued for 2019.										
5-A	Sept 1-Oct 31	Aug 15-31	Aug 15-31	New in 2018	New in 2018	New in 2018	New in 2018	New in 2018	New in 2018	New in 2018
New hunt type and once-in-a-lifetime rule doesn't apply. Huge hunt area, south of unit 3 and adjacent to the corner of Yellowstone National Park. Reports of goats are very low and are scattered in isolated spots. Most of the areas you might find a goat are in designated wilderness. This hunt is an opportunity hunt aimed at trying to harvest goats that have pioneered south, into habitat preferred to be managed for native Bighorn sheep. Very tough hunt and low harvest expected, as goat numbers are very low. Not a hunt recommended for nonresidents since the cost of the tag and outfitter are a lot to risk for the slim chance you'll find a great goat. It is anticipated that there will be 3 resident and 1 nonresident tags issued for 2019.										



## WYOMING ELK MAP



\*DISCLAIMER: For exact boundaries refer to official game and fish maps. This map is for general reference only.

## WYOMING ELK

The elk hunting options in Wyoming are numerous and vary widely. Unless you have the maximum 13 points, our take on Wyoming is to hunt more often, rather than just once or twice in a lifetime by only holding out for the best units. But if you're in the middle of the points chase, we suggest drawing tags as often as you can get them and hunt more frequently. Simply put, Wyoming has some great elk hunting, but we'd put it in the 300-350" bracket as far as what to expect, rather than the 350-375"+ expectations, that many of us have on great units in Arizona, Utah, or Nevada. We're not saying 350-380"+ bulls don't exist in Wyoming, because they are certainly worthy goals in some units. But for the most part, those expectations are a bit high for what we'd say you should expect on the majority of great elk units in Wyoming. Elk hunting right now in Wyoming is really good, so we suggest picking a unit and trying to get drawn as soon as your schedule allows.

New for 2019, unit 113 in the eastern prairie country is



BECCA CRUM, ELK, WYOMING  
THOROFARE OUTFITTERS



open again and will offer good hunts for those that draw, although don't expect 350"+ bulls. A big change will take effect in unit 58 where the big Hoodoo Ranch will now require nonresident hunters to hire an outfitter, which will cost approximately \$8,000. Residents will still be able to access the Hoodoo in October and early November, on the rifle hunt for trespass fees, as they've done in the past. This is a big change and we highly encourage self-guided nonresidents to not apply for unit 58, unless you are really prepared to work hard on the limited forest land or other small private inholdings you might secure access on.

Wyoming has some of the most diverse types of elk habitat and hunting opportunities of all the western states. From deep backcountry wilderness style horseback units, to limited pressure private land hunts, to wide open sagebrush prairies, Wyoming has it all. With the exception of some areas where wolves have worked elk herds over pretty good, Wyoming's elk populations are doing really well. In 2017 early snows helped make elk hunts in many of the backcountry units incredible. While in 2018, warm fall weather with minimal snow made elk hunting very tough in many units. In other areas of Wyoming, weather doesn't influence the elk hunting as much as it can in the backcountry units. Weather is always a variable, so don't let the modest elk hunting reports you may have heard from Wyoming in 2018, deter you too much. Elk hunting in Wyoming is on an overall upward trend.

Picking an elk unit to apply for in Wyoming comes down to several factors. Deciding whether or not you intend to go guided or self-guided, rifle or archery, want to be in grizzly country or not, earlier or late seasons, and if you can use or bring horses are key elements in choosing a hunt to apply for. Ask yourself some of these types of questions, then decide what caliber of bull you'd be very happy with. As mentioned, Wyoming is not known as one of the top 4 mega trophy bull states like Arizona, Nevada, Utah, and New Mexico, but it has more hunts and opportunities for 300-350" bulls than a lot of other states. Many of these types of hunts can be drawn with minimal points when compared to what it would take to draw a hunt of similar quality in other states. Even nonresident applicants holding on to maximum preference points may burn them on a "top" unit and not bring home a 350"+ bull. It can be an amazing or tough hunt, depending on the weather, rut, and the year you draw.

Be realistic in your Wyoming elk hunt planning goals and apply accordingly. You'll notice that many of the top trophy elk units have such low total tag numbers that they only issue tags in the nonresident maximum preference point drawing, leaving no tags for the random draw. Don't waste an application applying for a unit that gives no random tags, if you don't have near enough to



JASON BOYER, ELK  
WYOMING

draw that unit with your preference points. We generally tell applicants to be realistic in their trophy elk hunting criteria in Wyoming, especially if they don't have the maximum 13 points going into the 2019 draw. There are a lot of solid elk hunts to choose from for nearly all elk hunters. Nonresidents that want public land, self-guided hunts for 350"+ bulls have a limited number of choices. Hunters who want to hunt elk more often and are willing to hunt 300-330"+ type bulls have plenty of guided or self-guided options. We've listed what we feel are the better elk hunts in the state for a variety of hunting strategies.

Make a plan and use your elk points. Wyoming gets their elk results out quickly, by the end of February, which leaves plenty of time to adjust schedules and make other application plans if you draw a tag. We have outfitters we know well and trust with your hunt should you draw. If you need some help choosing a unit that fits what you're looking for or need an outfitter suggestion, give us a call.

### Nonresident Elk Preference Point Totals Going into the 2019 draw

Number of Points	Nonresident Number of Sportspersons	Total Points
1	25827	25827
2	16228	32456
3	10613	31839
4	7793	31172
5	5504	27520
6	4569	27414
7	3956	27692
8	3435	27480
9	2840	25560
10	2184	21840
11	1798	19778
12	1610	19320
13	1612	20956
	87969	338854





CHUCK KITCHENMAN, ELK, WYOMING  
BEAVER TRAP OUTFITTERS



ROY STANLEY, ELK, WYOMING  
EAST FORK OUTFITTERS

### Wyoming's Better Rifle/Archery Elk Units

Unit - Type	Season Opens 2019	2018 Rifle Season Hunt dates - Expect Similar Dates for 2019	2018 Archery Season Hunt Dates - Expect Similar Dates for 2019 *	Total Tag Quota - 2018 2017	Resident Random Draw Odds 2018 2017	Nonresident "Special" Pref Point Draw Odds 2018 2017	Nonresident "Special" Random Draw Odds 2018 2017	Nonresident "Regular" Pref Point Draw Odds 2018 2017	Nonresident "Regular" Random Draw Odds 2018 2017	Harvest Success - All Hunters 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013
<b>Our take on the hunt:</b>										
7-1 *	Oct 15	Oct 15- Nov 20	Sept 1-30	1500 1500	23% 24%	100% with 9 72% with 8	1 in 25 1 in 27	21% with 9 100% with 9	1 in 46 1 in 45	72%, 63%, 58%, 67%, 50%
Huge unit with high elk numbers, but also high tag numbers. Tougher hunt in 2018. Mix of private and public ground. Must study GPS and maps to hunt and do well on public, otherwise hire an outfitter. Plenty of 300" to 330"+ bulls with 350"+ potential.										
16 -1 *	Oct 1	Oct 1-31	Sept 1-30	150 150	9% 10%	14% with 11 14% with 10	1 in 104 1 in 73	100% with 12 75% with 11	1 in 155 1 in 163	81%, 75%, 77%, 70%, 71%
Big unit with private land limiting access. Some public land to hunt for hunters willing to work hard and use GPS. Plenty of elk and a good opportunity for 320-330" bulls and better potential. Easy, high desert prairie type terrain.										
16-2 *	Nov 1	Nov 1-30	Sept 1-30	50 50	11% 10%	100% with 11 25% with 9	No tag 1 in 55	50% with 11 20% with 9	No tag 1 in 75	82%, 68%, 81%, 78%, 88%
Same as above but later season.										
19-1 *	Oct 1	Oct 1-14	Sept 1-30	150 150	21% 21%	100% with 9 29% with 7	1 in 24 1 in 21	17% with 9 100% with 9	1 in 64 1 in 37	60%, 58%, 70%, 64%, 51%
Unit holds good elk numbers but private land limits access. Can be frustrating to hunt on public land as elk often load up on private land with pressure. Some bigger ranches are leased up. Expect to pay trespass fees to have the best hunt. 330"+ potential.										
19-2 *	Nov 1	Nov 1-20	Sept 1-30	150 150	26% 26%	100% with 7 100% with 6	1 in 33 1 in 18	100% with 8 33% with 6	1 in 30 1 in 25	83%, 56%, 64%, 56%, 65%
Same as above but later season.										
22-1 *	Oct 8	Oct 8-31	Sept 1-30	40 40	6% 6%	6% with 12 17% with 11	No tag No tag	10% with 12 4% with 11	No tag No tag	74%, 87%, 73%, 93%, 68%
High desert public land mountain range that is typically a great hunt. Low pressure and high success hunt for 320-340" type bulls. Can hunt self-guided in lower elevation.										
23-1 *	Oct 1	Oct 1-31	Sept 1-30	150 150	21% 21%	100% with 7 33% with 6	1 in 34 1 in 15	78% with 9 50% with 8	1 in 42 1 in 22	64%, 69%, 53%, 74%, 57%
Some big bulls here but private land severely limits access. Elk load up on big ranches. Expect to pay high trespass fees. Public land hunters should avoid this unit. 340"+ bulls.										



## Wyoming's Better Rifle/Archery Elk Units

Unit - Type	Season Opens 2019	2018 Rifle Season Hunt dates - Expect Similar Dates for 2019	2018 Archery Season Hunt Dates - Expect Similar Dates for 2019 *	Total Tag Quota - 2018 2017	Resident Random Draw Odds 2018 2017	Nonresident "Special" Pref Point Draw Odds 2018 2017	Nonresident "Special" Random Draw Odds 2018 2017	Nonresident "Regular" Pref Point Draw Odds 2018 2017	Nonresident "Regular" Random Draw Odds 2018 2017	Harvest Success - All Hunters 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013
Our take on the hunt:										
24-1 *	Oct 1	Oct 1-14	Sept 1-30	175 150	11% 9%	31% with 11 86% with 10	1 in 77 1 in 67	13% with 11 62% with 11	1 in 102 1 in 128	48%, 61%, 62%, 53%, 50%
High desert, public land mountain range that can be hunted self-guided. Bulls can still be bugling on rifle opener. Sometimes elk and hunters can be concentrated, leading to crowding issues. Expect 300-330" bulls.										
30-1 *	Oct 1	Oct 1-31	Sept 1-30	50 50	5% 5%	11% with 12 25% with 11	1 in 54 No tag	10% with 12 8% with 11	1 in 127 No tag	88%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 94%
Public land, easy terrain, high desert sagebrush habitat. Easy hunt with high success for 300-330" bulls, with some better. Great self-guided hunt.										
31-1 *	Oct 1	Oct 1-31	Sept 1-30	100 100	5% 5%	13% with 12 10% with 11	1 in 146 1 in 85	5% with 12 7% with 11	1 in 409 1 in 285	79%, 84%, 90%, 86%, 80%
Great public land, moderate to easy terrain hunt. Some canyon country but still a great self-guided unit for 300-330" bulls with occasionally bigger.										
32-1 *	Oct 1	Oct 1-31	Sept 1-30	50 50	6% 6%	50% with 12 18% with 11	No tag No tag	10% with 12 13% with 11	No tag No tag	85%, 64%, 79%, 61%, 58%
A bit tougher hunt than units 30 and 31, but still a great hunt for 320-340" bulls and some better. Good self-guided option if you have maximum points. Mostly moderate to easy terrain, in high desert sagebrush prairie type terrain.										
38-1	Oct 15	Oct 15- Nov 5	N/A Rifle only	350 350	32% 29%	38% with 5 80% with 5	1 in 15 1 in 14	50% with 7 24% with 6	1 in 36 1 in 31	51%, 40%, 51%, 48%, 29%
One of the better hunts in the Bighorn Mtns. Abundant public land and no wilderness. Rifle only. Archers must draw type 9 permit. 300-330" bulls and a few 350"+ killed every year.										
39-1	Oct 15	Oct 15- Nov 4	N/A Rifle only	200 200	49% 46%	38% with 3 58% with 2	1 in 17 1 in 5	20% with 5 14% with 4	1 in 22 1 in 22	77%, 65%, 55%, 55%, 43%
Good unit with plenty of public land, although sometimes with pressure or weather elk can move to lower private land. Rifle only. Archers must draw type 9 permit. Expect 300-320" bulls, with bigger potential.										
40-1	Oct 15	Oct 15- Nov 4	N/A Rifle only	225 225	48% 49%	100% with 6 100% with 4	1 in 16 1 in 14	22% with 7 100% with 7	1 in 33 1 in 44	46%, 55%, 50%, 51%, 22%
Good unit with plenty of public land and mostly 310-330" bulls, but potential for better. Plan on some hard hunting in steep country and glass the burns at long distances. Some easier rifle only. Archers must draw type 9 permit.										
41-1 *	Oct 15	Oct 15- Nov 4	Sept 15-30	375 375	59% 61%	100% with 4 100% with 4	1 in 12 1 in 18	93% with 5 100% with 5	1 in 17 1 in 25	41%, 45%, 36%, 26%, 43%
Higher tag numbers and a bit lower harvest rates than other Bighorn Mountain units but still a decent hunt for minimal points to draw. Some areas will be best hunted with horses. 300-320" bulls.										
45-1 *	Oct 15	Oct 15- Nov 4	Sept 15-30	350 350	23% 23%	20% with 9 100% with 9	1 in 21 1 in 25	91% with 10 9% with 9	1 in 43 1 in 49	58%, 53%, 50%, 39%, 48%
One of the most popular units in the Bighorn Mountains. Big public land unit with good elk numbers. Some wilderness in highest portions of the unit, but plenty of nonwilderness. Expect 300-330" bulls with some better.										
51-1	Oct 1	Oct 1-31	N/A Rifle only	100 100	29% 35%	75% with 8 100% with 5	1 in 56 1 in 23	100% with 10 13% with 8	1 in 41 1 in 52	60%, 68%, 48%, 45%, 33%
Unit has been producing big bulls again, but warmer weather and little snow made this a very tough hunt in 2018. Horseback wilderness hunt with an outfitter for the best bulls. Some Park bulls drift in later with snow and weather. Rifle only hunt that is valid south and west of the Clarks Fork River. Solid for 330-350" bulls and 370"+ potential, if you get weather. Archers must draw type 9 permit. Grizzlies.										
51-2	Oct 1	Oct 1-31	N/A Rifle only	40 40	54% 64%	100% with 5 100% with 0	No tag No tag	100% with 5 50% with 4	No tag No tag	62%, 57%, N/A, N/A, N/A
Some good bulls but not as consistent as 51-1. Nonwilderness options here. 320-340" bulls with occasionally better. Rifle only hunt that is valid north and east of the Clarks Fork River. Archers must draw type 9 permit. Grizzlies.										
53-1	Oct 1	Oct 1-31	N/A Rifle only	10 10	20% 16%	50% with 10 50% with 10	No tag No tag	No tag No tag	No tag No tag	38%, 60%, 86%, 86%, 55%
Public land unit with some wilderness and nonwilderness options. Access is mostly tough and rugged. Not an easy self-guided hunt. Grizzlies. Rifle only. Archers must draw type 9 permit. 320-340" bulls with bigger potential.										



## Wyoming's Better Rifle/Archery Elk Units

Unit - Type	Season Opens 2019	2018 Rifle Season Hunt dates - Expect Similar Dates for 2019	2018 Archery Season Hunt Dates - Expect Similar Dates for 2019 *	Total Tag Quota - 2018 2017	Resident Random Draw Odds 2018 2017	Nonresident "Special" Pref Point Draw Odds 2018 2017	Nonresident "Special" Random Draw Odds 2018 2017	Nonresident "Regular" Pref Point Draw Odds 2018 2017	Nonresident "Regular" Random Draw Odds 2018 2017	Harvest Success - All Hunters 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013
Our take on the hunt:										
53-2	Nov 1	Nov 1-30	N/A Rifle only	50 50	100% 100%	100% with 7 100% with 7	1 in 8 1 in 8	100% with 8 50% with 7	1 in 16 1 in 30	55%, 19%, 46%, 59%, N/A
Same as above but in November with more tags and only valid in the North Fork Shoshone River drainage. Expect bad weather and a tough hunt. Rifle only.										
54-1	Oct 1	Oct 1- Nov 30	N/A Rifle only	50 50	9% 8%	33% with 11 25% with 11	No tag No tag	21% with 12 21% with 11	No tag No tag	68%, 79%, 70%, 63%, 50%
<b>One of the better trophy elk hunts in the state!</b> Best bulls usually killed in late October and November. Nonwilderness, but horses needed or are a big asset here. Valid south of the Clarks Fork River. Weather and snow make it tougher to access late, but that's typically when it's best. Solid for 330-350" bulls and 350-375" potential. Grizzlies. Type 1 tag holders were not allowed to hunt the archery season in 2018.										
54-2	Oct 1	Oct 1-31	N/A Rifle only	25 25	29% 35%	100% with 8 100% with 7	No tag No tag	25% with 10 100% with 8	No tag No tag	79%, 58%, 50%, 60%, N/A
Valid north of the Clarks Fork River and is not as good as the 54-1 hunt. Not as many elk or top end bulls. Expect 300-330" bulls. Nonwilderness, but some tougher country to access if self-guided. Grizzlies. Type 2 tag holders were not allowed to hunt the archery season in 2018.										
55-1 *	Oct 1	Oct 1-31	Sept 1-30	50 50	35% 30%	100% with 7 100% with 4	1 in 18 1 in 10	75% with 10 100% with 7	1 in 34 1 in 44	26%, 68%, 33%, 45%, 53%
Backcountry wilderness horseback hunt in some rugged country. Can produce a big bull and can be a good rut hunt early. Plenty of grizzlies. Plan on an outfitter. Expect 320-340" bulls with some better.										
56-1 *	Nov 1	Nov 1- Dec 7	Sept 1-30	10 10	5% 5%	13% with 12 6% with 11	No tag No tag	4% with 12 6% with 11	No tag No tag	40%, 60%, 70%, 91%, 50%
<b>One of the best units in the state.</b> 56 is a general season in October. These later dates on this hunt target migrating bulls from the backcountry and Park. Wilderness horseback hunt that is cold and snowy. Not for everyone, but can be a hunt where you could take a giant. Gets a lot of added tag holders from commissioners tags. Expect 340-360" bulls with potential for a giant. Grizzlies.										
58-1 *	Oct 1	Oct 1- Nov 30	Sept 1-30	35 35	17% 11%	23% with 12 100% with 11	No tag No tag	25% with 12 19% with 11	No tag No tag	82%, 58%, 76%, 74%, 69%
The best hunting is on the large Hoodoo Ranch which beginning in 2019, will require all nonresidents to hunt with an outfitter, which will be approximately \$8k. Residents will be able to access the Hoodoo Ranch, through about Nov 10th on the rifle hunt for trespass fees. Loads of bulls and a great elk hunt. Quality has improved, easy terrain. Potential for 350"+. Grizzlies.										
59-1 *	Nov 1	Nov 1-15	Sept 1-30	10 10	13% 9%	8% with 12 11% with 11	No tag No tag	17% with 12 9% with 11	No tag No tag	55%, 100%, 50%, 60%, 89%
<b>One of the best units in the state.</b> 59 is a general season in October. This November hunt has very limited pressure and can be a good time to kill a 350"+ migrating bull, with some snowy weather. Backcountry wilderness style hunt with an outfitter. Grizzlies.										
61-1 *	Oct 1	Oct 1-31	Sept 1-30	150 150	36% 32%	100% with 9 100% with 9	1 in 24 1 in 20	60% with 9 100% with 9	1 in 22 1 in 37	33%, 75%, 59%, 75%, 67%
Washakie Wilderness portion of unit 61. Horseback hunt, will need an outfitter. Also valid in portions of the Washakie Wilderness in unit 62. Rut hunt early on. Lots of elk and 6 point bulls. A great hunt with high success on 300-325" bulls and some better. Grizzlies.										
61-2 *	Oct 15	Oct 15- Nov 15	Sept 1-30	50 50	11% 11%	50% with 12 40% with 11	No tag No tag	25% with 12 75% with 10	No tag No tag	80%, 94%, 81%, 70%, 76%
All of unit 61 and 66, also typically allowed to hunt until Nov. 15, with lower tag numbers. Plenty of horseback and wilderness country, may require an outfitter to do well. Great chance at a 340"+ bull with some weather. Plan on hunting Nov 1-15th. Grizzlies.										
62-1 *	Oct 1	Oct 1-21	Sept 1-30	125 125	20% 21%	42% with 11 80% with 9	1 in 104 1 in 52	29% with 11 100% with 11	1 in 95 1 in 100	54%, 64%, 64%, 65%, 79%
Great hunt typically for 330-350" bulls, with bigger potential. Can be hunted down low, fairly easily, on nonwilderness public land, but the wilderness and backcountry don't see much pressure on this hunt and can be a great place to kill big bulls, if willing to use an outfitter. Grizzlies.										
63-1 *	Oct 1	Oct 1-21	Sept 1-30	200 200	23% 20%	60% with 12 14% with 10	1 in 61 1 in 147	82% with 12 47% with 11	1 in 174 1 in 175	58%, 57%, 49%, 59%, 55%
<b>One of the better units in the state.</b> Includes unit 64. Great units with a mix of some great private ranches and public land that is both wilderness and nonwilderness. 330-350" bulls, with better potential. Public land, self-guided hunters be prepared to hunt hard and use GPS to do well. Grizzlies.										



## Wyoming's Better Rifle/Archery Elk Units

Unit - Type	Season Opens 2019	2018 Rifle Season Hunt dates - Expect Similar Dates for 2019	2018 Archery Season Hunt Dates - Expect Similar Dates for 2019 *	Total Tag Quota - 2018 2017	Resident Random Draw Odds 2018 2017	Nonresident "Special" Pref Point Draw Odds 2018 2017	Nonresident "Special" Random Draw Odds 2018 2017	Nonresident "Regular" Pref Point Draw Odds 2018 2017	Nonresident "Regular" Random Draw Odds 2018 2017	Harvest Success - All Hunters 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013
Our take on the hunt:										
63-2	Oct 1	Oct 1-21	Sept 1-30	25 N/A	24% New 2018	33% with 11 New in 2018	No tag New in 2018	100% with 9 New in 2018	No tag New in 2018	New in 2018
<b>One of the better units in the state.</b> Hunt was new in 2018. Any elk valid only within the Washakie Wilderness portions of units 63 and 64. Lower tag numbers expected. Great wilderness elk hunt for nonresidents willing to hire an outfitter. Can only hunt within wilderness areas in units 63 and 64.. Expect 340+ bulls with 370" potential. Grizzlies.										
64-2 *	Nov 1	Nov 1-15	Sept 1-30	75 100	23% 39%	67% with 10 33% with 8	1 in 59 1 in 39	57% with 10 60% with 9	1 in 50 1 in 54	65%, 57%, 65%, 53%, 53%
Later season on unit 64 and 63. More private land issues and less public land than in unit 63. Still really good bulls, but tougher for self-guided hunters. Good for 330-350" bulls. Grizzlies.										
78-1 *	Aug 15	Aug 15- Jan 31	Sept 1-25	75 75	27% 25%	100% with 8 100% with 9	1 in 17 1 in 25	33% with 8 100% with 10	1 in 41 1 in 68	67%, 88%, 85%, 93%, 92%
Private land dominates this unit between Teton Village and Snake River. Need private land access to do well. Very liberal season dates allowing for rifle rut hunts early, on private land only. 340+" bulls available. Earlier in August is normally only open on private lands. Great hunt if willing to pay for access or go guided, but gaining access on private has gotten tougher in recent years.										
100-1 *	Oct 15	Oct 15-31	Sept 1-30	100 100	2% 2%	15% with 12 14% with 11	1 in 171 1 in 245	9% with 12 10% with 11	1 in 596 1 in 595	98%, 91%, 93%, 90%, 84%
Great hunt in open sagebrush terrain with scattered aspen/tree pockets. Easy hunt for anyone on public land. 300-330" bulls with occasional 350" bull potential. Tag cuts have helped quality some. High quality hunt with terrible draw odds.										
111-1 *	Oct 10	Oct 10-31	Sept 1-30	50 40	14% 9%	50% with 11 100% with 11	No tag No tag	33% with 12 33% with 11	No tag No tag	84%, 80%, 92%, 77%, 58%
Prairie type terrain with lower mountain ranges. Private lands can draw and keep elk, so public land hunters can get frustrated. Has 340"+ potential and very low tag numbers.										
113-1	Nov 5	N/A	N/A	0 0	N/A 4%	N/A 75% with 11	N/A No tag	N/A 38% with 11	N/A No tag	83%, N/A, N/A, 90%, N/A
Unit typically only open every 2-3 years. Rochelle Hills area within Thunder Basin National Grasslands. Plenty of public land, but does have a mixture of private lands that limits access. Some landowners have allowed access for trespass fees. Lower elevation hunt in the rolling prairie type country. Easy terrain and typically a high success hunt for 320-340" bulls with a few better, but not a hunt for giant bulls. Usually 40-50 bull tags issued when open. Expect 13 points to have a chance to draw this hunt.										
122-1*	Oct 15	Oct 15- Nov 30	Sept 1-30	75 75	100% 94%	75% with 4 75% with 2	1 in 19 1 in 10	100% with 6 75% with 5	1 in 29 1 in 32	82%, 72%, 79%, 66%, 74%
Nearly all private land so plan on paying for a higher priced guided hunt, otherwise don't apply. Eastern Wyoming high prairie terrain in lower elevation. Easier hunt for almost any type of hunter for 320-340" bulls with occasionally bigger. Great elk hunt for the number of points it requires to draw. Can hunt the archery hunt with this tag as well.										
124-1 *	Oct 15	Oct 15- Nov 30	Sept 1-30	50 40	4% 3%	7% with 12 4% with 11	No tag No tag	2% with 12 4% with 11	No tag No tag	90%, 94%, 79%, 95%, 92%
Mostly public land, wide open broken sagebrush type terrain. Not difficult terrain to hunt, but a lot to cover. Very poor draw odds, but usually is a quality hunt for 300-340" bulls with 350"+ potential.										
GENERAL	Varies	Varies	Varies	3,971 3,921	Over the counter	97% with 1 75% with <1	29% 30%	58% with 2 100% with 2	1 in 7 1 in 7	Varies by unit

**\* In 2018 you were able to hunt both the rifle and the archery seasons with this tag (must purchase archery stamp after drawing)**  
**In elk hunt areas that have Type 9 archery only licenses, the special archery season may or may not be open when the Type 9 license season is open or there may not be a special archery season offered for firearm hunters.**



## EPIC HUNT PLANNER MAPS

To see detailed unit boundaries, members can login to the Epic Hunt Planner at [epicoutdoors.com](http://epicoutdoors.com)





### Wyoming's Better "Archery Only" Hunts

Unit - Type	Season Opens 2019	2018 Archery Season Hunt Dates - Expect Similar Dates for 2019	Total Tag Quota - 2018 2017	Resident Random Draw Odds 2018 2017	Nonresident "Special" Pref Point Draw Odds 2018 2017	Nonresident "Special" Random Draw Odds 2018 2017	Nonresident "Regular" Pref Point Draw Odds 2018 2017	Nonresident "Regular" Random Draw Odds 2018 2017	Harvest Success - All Hunters 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013
Our take on the hunt:									
38-9	Sept 1	Sept 1-30	200 200	23% 25%	40% with 8 17% with 8	1 in 26 1 in 38	100% with 10 100% with 9	1 in 64 1 in 63	30%, 30%, 26%, 33%, 26%
Good hunt with abundant public land and no wilderness or grizzlies. Expect 300-330" bulls with some better.									
39-9	Sept 1	Sept 1-30	75 75	32% 32%	80% with 8 67% with 7	1 in 28 1 in 47	50% with 5 71% with 8	1 in 26 1 in 46	19%, 28%, 27%, 38%, 23%
Solid hunt on public land with good access. No wilderness or grizzlies. Expect bulls 300-320", some better.									
40-9	Sept 1	Sept 1-30	100 100	49% 53%	100% with 7 25% with 6	1 in 23 1 in 25	100% with 9 100% with 6	1 in 51 1 in 25	18%, 25%, 18%, 38%, 28%
Good hunt on public land with good access. No wilderness or grizzlies. Expect bulls 300-320", some better.									
41-9	Sept 1	Sept 1-30	125 150	49% 79%	14% with 4 100% with 3	1 in 17 1 in 3	100% with 5 29% with 5	1 in 9 1 in 11	30%, 12%, 13%, 32%, 23%
Mostly public land with good access. Some private land down lower. Some wilderness up high. Big unit with good elk numbers and no grizzlies. Expect bulls 300-320", some better.									
45-9	Sept 1	Sept 1-30	150 175	35% 49%	83% with 9 50% with 7	1 in 35 1 in 14	6% with 9 100% with 9	1 in 33 1 in 47	25%, 28%, 19%, 37%, 19%
Very popular public land unit with good access, some wilderness, and no grizzlies. Good self-guided or guided option. Mostly 300-330" bulls, better potential.									
51-9	Sept 1	Sept 1-30	70 70	100% 100%	60% with 2 100% with 2	1 in 3 1 in 7	60% with 4 60% with 3	1 in 39 1 in 30	37%, 19%, 18%, 28%, 24%
Unit quality has been doing better with some great bulls here the past few years. Abundant wilderness, but plenty of public land outside as well. Hard hunting archers willing to get after it can turn up good bulls. Expect 300-330" with 350" potential. Grizzlies.									
53-9	Sept 1	Sept 1-30	10 10	100% 73%	50% with 4 50% with 8	No tag No tag	25% with 8 100% with 8	No tag No tag	11%, 17%, 86%, 21%, 17%
Rugged backcountry unit with about half wilderness. Some big bulls available, but not an easy hunt. Horseback hunt required to do well. 320-340"+ potential. Grizzlies.									
54-9	Sept 1	Sept 1-30	35 35	53% 51%	40% with 9 25% with 7	No tag No tag	100% with 10 100% with 11	No tag No tag	39%, 38%, 35%, 60%, 27%
Big public land unit with plenty of good backcountry areas to day hunt. One of the best units in the state, but not an easy archery hunt. Some elk get on private land. Always some 350"+ bulls available. Grizzlies.									
55-9	Sept 1	Sept 1-30	25 25	100% 100%	50% with 0 100% with 1	No tag No tag	100% with 5 50% with 2	No tag No tag	35%, 26%, 25%, 25%, 43%
Wilderness backcountry hunt in remote, rough, grizzly country. Some 340" bulls, but not high densities. Plan on an outfitter. Be in shape.									
56-9	Sept 1	Sept 1-30	30 30	100% 100%	29% with 0 67% with 0	No tag No tag	9% with 0 100% with 3	No tag No tag	35%, 31%, 4%, 38%, 0%
Tough backcountry wilderness unit. Plan on using an outfitter. Some big bulls, but not high densities. Be in shape. Grizzlies.									
59-9	Sept 1	Sept 1-30	25 25	100% 100%	25% with 0 100% with 0	No tag No tag	25% with 0 100% with 6	No tag No tag	33%, 29%, 21%, 39%, 9%
Unit has been producing some real good bulls. Backcountry wilderness horseback hunt so be prepared to hunt hard in grizzly country. 300-340" bulls with some bigger bulls taken each year. Outfitter recommended for nonresidents.									

### ARCHERY ELK NOTE:

In elk hunt areas that have Type 9 archery only licenses, there may or may not be a special archery season offered for firearm Type 1 hunters. Final elk regulations will be approved by early May.

## WYOMING BISON

If you're wanting a free-ranging bison someday, you should consider applying in Wyoming. The only downside is the high cost of the nonresident tag fees which is \$4,417 for the any bison hunts, and \$2,767 for the cow hunts, which you must pay for up-front, at the time of application. If unsuccessful, you will receive a refund for the permit fee minus a \$15 nonresident application fee and a 2.5% credit card processing fee. There is no bonus point system for bison, so the draw is a straight random draw where getting lucky is all that happens.

For years, unit 2 was the only hunt option, but unit 3 was opened for hunting in 2018, to allow some harvest of the groups of mainly bulls that move outside the east side of Yellowstone Park to winter. Only 3 tags were issued in unit 3 last year, two for residents and one for a nonresident and the hunt went well. However, Wyoming Game and Fish is closing unit 3 for 2019 to evaluate the consistent presence of bulls in the hunt area. It's possible we will see an area 3 hunt again in the near future.

Unit 2 is the only area to apply for in 2019 with bull hunts which are type 1 or cow hunts which are type 4 hunts. This unit 2 hunt also includes portions of unit 1, but essentially, these hunts take place north of Jackson Hole on areas adjacent to Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks and the National Elk Refuge. Bison movement in and out of the parks here will sometimes be dictated by hunting pressure on adjacent country and snow storms. These herds know where they are safe and sometimes it's tough to turn them up where you can legally kill them. The tags were increased in 2018, adding hunting pressure and we've heard from several hunters that have indicated tough hunting and bison held up in the Park. Some forest road closures occur on December 15th, which inhibits snowmobile access as well, requiring foot or horseback only. This hunt was definitely tougher in 2018. The season dates in 2018 were August 15-January 1, and we expect the 2019 seasons to be similar, with the opening date set to open on August 15, 2019. This gives the lucky tag holders plenty of time to make a few trips or to time their hunt during periods when bison are in areas open to hunting. The hunt itself is not extremely tough physically, but very cold and snowy conditions should be expected, later in the year, when bison are more likely to be in the open hunting areas.

The any bull bison tags are considered once-in-a-lifetime, but cow tags are not, so you can apply for cow tags after you've drawn a bull tag. In 2018, Wyoming drew 117 of the any bison permits in unit 2, of which, 23 were drawn by nonresidents. There were 75 total cow permits issued, of which, 15 were drawn by nonresidents.

Drawing odds for nonresidents in 2018 were 1 in 18 for

the bull permits in unit 2 and 1 in 7 for the cow only permits. This was the best drawing odds we've seen in a long time for bison, and are the best odds in any state. The additional tags for 2018, coupled with the big jump in tag fees caused many nonresidents to opt out of applying, both dramatically helped the drawing odds.

For Wyoming residents, the drawing odds in unit 2 were 1 in 18 for the bull permits and 1 in 13 for the cow only permits. These odds also got twice as good for residents in 2018 since tags were increased. Tag numbers may not be as high in 2019, but they won't be set until later in the spring.

There are guided options, as well as bison retrieval services, in the Jackson and Cody areas to assist hunters with these hunts. If you want a true free-ranging wild bison, and are fine with the high permit fees, we recommend you apply in Wyoming and hunt an icon of the American West!

## WYOMING BISON MAP



Note: ■ Wilderness Area, Non-Residents Must Have Guides

■ TRIBAL LAND

■ NATIONAL PARKS AND REFUGES

\*DISCLAIMER: For exact boundaries refer to official game and fish maps. This map is for general reference only.



# Sweet SUCCESS

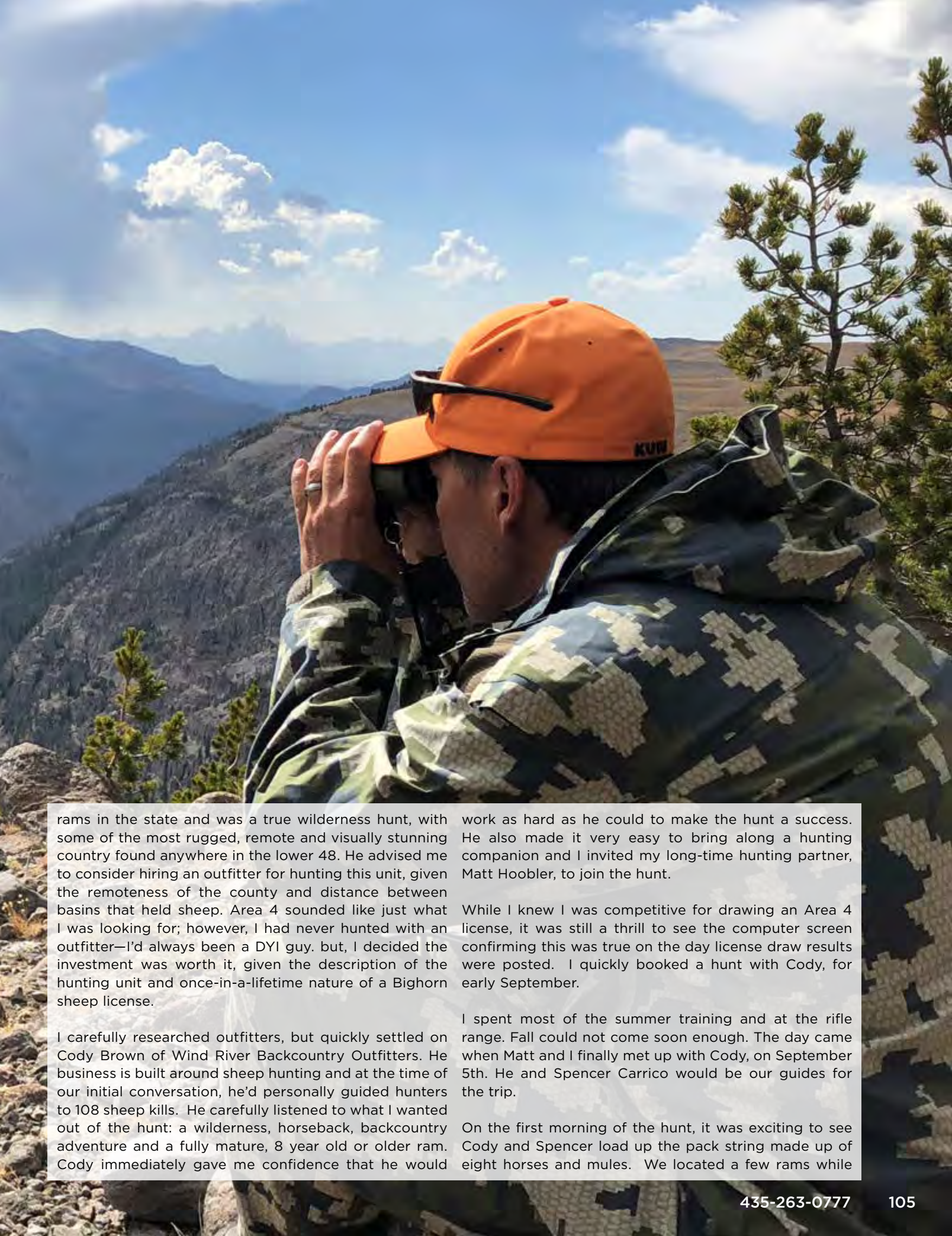
GLENN PAULEY • BIGHORN SHEEP • WYOMING

**Western big game hunting has always been my passion and hunting Bighorn sheep has always been at the top of my bucket list.** I entered the 2018 hunting license draw with 18 sheep preference points in my home state of Wyoming. With this many points, I was becoming competitive to draw some of Wyoming's better known sheep hunting units. Every year previously, while building preference points, I would carefully research sheep drawing odds and learn everything I could about each hunting unit and the rams it was producing.

Before submitting my 2018 license application, I called the Wyoming Game and Fish Department's lead sheep biologist, Doug McWhirter, to get final input before selecting a hunting unit. I explained to Doug that not only did I want to shoot a nice ram, but I was equally interested in having the complete sheep hunting experience.

Doug asked if I had ever considered Area 4. He explained that this area had been producing the oldest age-class





rams in the state and was a true wilderness hunt, with some of the most rugged, remote and visually stunning country found anywhere in the lower 48. He advised me to consider hiring an outfitter for hunting this unit, given the remoteness of the county and distance between basins that held sheep. Area 4 sounded like just what I was looking for; however, I had never hunted with an outfitter—I'd always been a DIY guy. but, I decided the investment was worth it, given the description of the hunting unit and once-in-a-lifetime nature of a Bighorn sheep license.

I carefully researched outfitters, but quickly settled on Cody Brown of Wind River Backcountry Outfitters. He business is built around sheep hunting and at the time of our initial conversation, he'd personally guided hunters to 108 sheep kills. He carefully listened to what I wanted out of the hunt: a wilderness, horseback, backcountry adventure and a fully mature, 8 year old or older ram. Cody immediately gave me confidence that he would

work as hard as he could to make the hunt a success. He also made it very easy to bring along a hunting companion and I invited my long-time hunting partner, Matt Hoobler, to join the hunt.

While I knew I was competitive for drawing an Area 4 license, it was still a thrill to see the computer screen confirming this was true on the day license draw results were posted. I quickly booked a hunt with Cody, for early September.

I spent most of the summer training and at the rifle range. Fall could not come soon enough. The day came when Matt and I finally met up with Cody, on September 5th. He and Spencer Carrico would be our guides for the trip.

On the first morning of the hunt, it was exciting to see Cody and Spencer load up the pack string made up of eight horses and mules. We located a few rams while



glassing on the way into base camp. None were the caliber that we were looking for, but it was great to see sheep. I was amazed at Cody's ability to pick out their tiny outlines lying among the jumbled rocks.

We hunted hard for the next three days, riding from 10 to 20 miles each day and we saw rams every day. Only one ram came close to our standards, but he did not quite fit the bill and he was in a place where a stalk was not possible. The trip was going fantastically as far as I was concerned. Cody's horses were amazing and I was seeing country that I had never seen before and may never see again. There was always good cheer in camp and everyone was just enjoying the experience.

The next day, Cody decided to pull camp and we tried two other areas before regrouping to hunt a completely new part of the unit that pushed even deeper into the wilderness. Several days passed without seeing any rams—which was unusual. Matt had to leave on day seven for work reasons. Spencer took Matt to the trail head while Cody and I continued to hunt. At this point in the hunt, the four of us had a lot of camaraderie and it was tough to see Matt go. He too was vested in the hunt and had wanted to see it come to its conclusion.

On day 8, the decision was made to again move camp and try some new drainages. While enjoying every minute of the hunt, the pressure to shoot a ram was building. Having a great guide in a great area, is never a guarantee for success in a fair-chase hunt and even the most well-planned and well-executed hunt can come up short in terms of harvesting an animal.

On the ride to our next hunting area, before topping out on a ridge, Cody took a short stroll to peer into an adjoining basin. The look on his face when he came back to the horses said it all. He had spotted eight rams, two of which were shooters. Our group disposition changed immediately, the hunt was on. A plan was quickly devised; Spencer would take the horses to our next campsite while Cody and I would stalk the rams who were bedded about a mile away. After dropping off the majority of the packstring at camp, Spencer would bring the remaining horses back to us to help with the pack out, if needed.

As we parted, my heart was in my throat. The rams were in a rocky crease on the side of a canyon. The stalk would involve hiking down one ridge and up another to reach the ridge above the rams, where a shot may be possible.





When we reached the ridge above the rams, we approached its edge several times before having to back out and try again in order to reach a vantage point where the rams were visible. After doing this several times without success, we finally decided to creep down the slope that the rams were on. This was risky since it was steep, we were not sure if the rams had moved, and tumbling rocks could alert the rams to our presence. Slowly, we made our way down the slope, peering into the rock ledges below, until we finally settled on a rock pinnacle, just large enough for the two of us.

Fortunately, from this vantage point, we could see the two largest rams at a steep angle bedded below us. They were a little over 300 yards away, completely oblivious to our presence, with a group of smaller rams below them. The two largest rams were nearly identical. While Cody looked through his binoculars, I tried to calm my nerves as I carefully set up for a shot on the one that was most broadside. At the sound of my shot, the rams jumped to their feet. Cody immediately saw that it was a clear miss, right over the bedded ram's back. I was stunned, heartbroken and embarrassed, but only for a minute. Luckily, the rams ran about 30 yards before regrouping, trying to locate the direction the shot had

come from. My next shot hit its mark and the largest ram went down. I shot once more hoping to anchor the ram, before it tumbled into a ravine out of sight.

Cody assured me that the last two shots were good and we had a dead ram waiting for us.

In hindsight, the hike to retrieve the ram was a little hair-raising, but I was too focused on reaching the ram at the time to give it much thought. I was absolutely thrilled when I finally climbed down to where he had landed, a fully-mature, eight year old ram. Everything had come together.

The pack out and ride back to camp was pure nirvana. The long hunt had made success even sweeter. Rarely, in life and hunting do things turn out just as you wish. In total, the hunt lasted 9 days, we rode over 100 miles and did not see a single hunter while in the field. Looking back, it was not the shot or the laying of hands on horns that had the greatest impact on me. What I will remember most about the experience was the amazing scenery, the ability to ride all day through what seemed like an endless wilderness, basins full of bugling elk, hair-raising precipices, Grizzly bear tracks through camp,







late night campfires, laughter in the cook tent and the deepening of existing friendships and the building of new ones. The whole adventure was an otherworldly experience containing everything I value most about hunting and the west.

My advice to first time sheep hunters and veterans alike—the journey, every bit as much as the destination, is what makes sheep hunting special. Opportunities to hunt sheep can be few and fleeting. Make sure you take time to enjoy the whole experience.





2018 SUPER TAG  
TRIFECTA WINNER  
BILL FRITZ

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2017 SUPER TAG TRIFECTA  
WINNER ZACK DEBERARD

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Raffle winners must purchase any applicable licenses and/or  
stamps before hunting. Made possible by the Wyoming Legislature.





A person wearing a large backpack and carrying a rifle is walking up a steep, snow-covered mountain slope. The person is seen from behind, moving towards the top of the mountain. The sky is overcast and grey.

# Two Bulls TEN DAYS

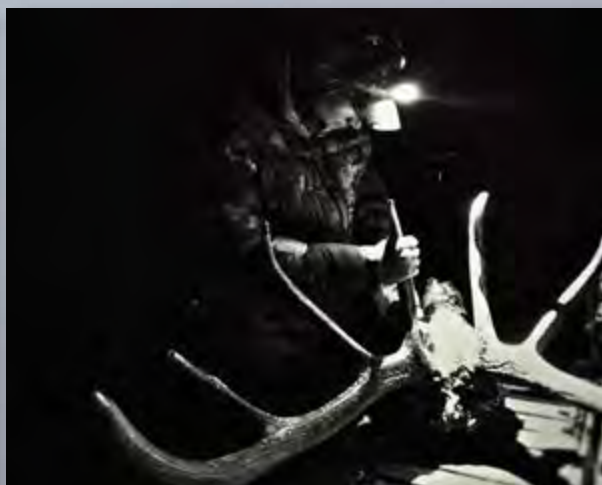
AUSTIN WEAVER • ALYSSA FANTASKEY • ELK • WYOMING

**Alyssa and I's elk season started off basically as every other does—a few weekends of backpack, archery, elk hunting.** Then we get the rifles out in October (which is how we prefer to hunt). So, the last weekend in September, I was archery hunting and I came very close to arrowing a 320 bull after shadowing him, 3 other bulls, and a bunch of cows into their bedding area, which ended up being a rut fest. They were busting cows up and he ended up turning part of the herd and pushing them right into us and then the whole deal blew up. With this being Sunday morning and having to get back to work the next day, we figured this would be a good place to start the following weekend, which was the rifle opener.

With a very successful season last year, (2 bulls down) I was able to kill my biggest bull to date. So this year would be Alyssa's turn to be on the gun first. We drove into the trailhead Saturday morning and got a base camp set up. Our plan was to take off from there Sunday morning, make a 2,000 ft climb to the ridge, and stay the night there in our floorless teepee. We got to the ridge right at prime time and there were bulls all around us. But nothing really to speak of besides one 310 class bull that we would consider if he happened to be in our wheelhouse in the morning.

When the alarm went off Monday morning at 5:30, we rolled out of our sleeping bags, quickly got dressed and





headed up to our vantage point. As we sat there in the darkness, it seemed pretty promising with several bulls bugling around us. Just as we started seeing silhouettes of elk on the hills around us, we had a guy come by and let us know he was going to be going through the timber below us and his two brothers were on vantage points to the north and south of us. We thought, "Whatever, it's public land, not much you can do."

About 20 minutes passed and we spotted the bull from the night before. He was definitely out of range and we were pretty hesitant to shoot him opening morning. About that time the guns started blazing and the orange army came to life. There were elk running everywhere. Nothing we were interested in shooting, but with that much shooting and that many guys, we decided we needed to move locations. We knew it was a gamble being that close to the trailhead, but we figured maybe opening morning we could catch a good one before all hell broke loose.

We decided to pack up the teepee and start running the ridges. We would spend one evening and one morning in a spot and move again. We had 4 days of food with us before we would go back to base camp. Luckily for us we ran into two hunters hiking out that had had some

success. One guy killed a bull that was giant for that area. We stood and visited with them for a few minutes and they were kind enough to tell us about two bulls they had seen before the season. As he pointed to the north and across the drainage about 3 more miles, he stated, "There were two cranker bulls up in that crap hole!."

Well that was music to our ears. Those are the kind of areas we love. I knew it was going to have to be a dang good bull for Alyssa to pull the trigger. After learning about the bulls these men had seen, Alyssa watched the cut, those guys told us about, like a hawk, for 2 days. After a few days we were pretty much totally out of food and had to head for base camp. We needed to come up with a game plan anyway. We didn't see those bulls from across the drainage, but still had confidence they were in there somewhere.

We stayed at our base camp that night and opted to go as light as possible, keep checking different ridges everyday and just stay at the base camp for a few nights. A few days passed and just a bunch of small bulls was all we were picking up.

On day 6, we were once again climbing the mountain and ended up spotting a herd with a decent 6x6 in it.





Definitely not a bull she was willing to shoot yet, but as we were sitting there glassing them, I pulled the spotter out to get a better look just to make sure. I picked up a few elk below that herd, it was four or five cows bedded in the timber. Soon after, I was able to pick out part of a main beam back in the brush. "I got a bull. Can't tell what he is yet though," I said. About that time, he turned his head. "Alyssa look in the spotter. I think this is definitely a bull you're going to want to shoot," I said. She moved over and had a look for herself. "Man he's good, but I don't know for sure. I think we should get closer and see," she said. At this time we were about 1,200 yards from the bedded bull.

So down off one ridge and up the next we went to get within range of the bull. We got the spotter set and she watched him for a bit. "That's definitely a good bull! I'm going to shoot him," she said. I ranged the bull, as she got prone with her bipod down. We waited about 20 minutes and the bull stood up. The shot broke and down he went. We were ecstatic! Day 6 and Alyssa had notched her tag standing over an awesome bull.

It took us until dark to get that load out and we still had to go back in the morning for the next load. So, three quarters of that day was shot as well. After getting back to camp, we took part of that day and ate everything in sight and hung out glassing all the hills above camp.

With Alyssa getting her bull killed, it was my turn on the gun. The next few days we tried a few spots that had been good to us in the past, but were unable to turn up anything that I wanted to shoot.

The morning of day 10 rolled around. It began getting a little harder to get out of the sleeping bag, but we were still in good spirits and loving that we weren't pounding nails and were still chasing bulls. As we were getting around Alyssa asked, "Well, what's the plan today, boss?" I said, "Well, those guys said there were two big bulls up there. I assume that we got one. So hopefully there's still a good one up there. I guess we head up there past where you got yours and see what we get into."

About a mile and a half from the trailhead, we started to be able to see, up on the hill to the east of us there was a big herd that we had not seen before. There were probably 4-5 bulls and 25 or so cows. One bull wasn't bad at all. I decided if we could get close to them I was going to shoot him.

We just started getting into range and were coming over the crest of the hill to see them when the fog rolled in so badly that you couldn't see 50 yards. We sat there for about an hour. By this time, our thermals had switched and were going up the mountain and the wind was all over. It started to blow the fog out, but only ended up pushing a bunch more in. By this time we were both frozen and were sure the elk we were after had been long gone with the wind blowing everywhere, so we decided to build a fire and hang out a little while until it cleared.

Finally about 11 o'clock it cleared and we packed up our stuff and headed up the ridge. We decided we would get on the very top and try to get past where Alyssa had shot her bull and check down through a few other cuts. Once we got on the ridge, we figured we would have the





advantage with the thermals and wind to hunt everything below us. Ha—wrong! It was just one of those days where the sun would shine then the clouds would roll in and the wind would start pushing down the mountain. We were getting super frustrated. We had just blown out a decent 6x6 and some cows. “I guess we’ll just blow every elk off the mountain today. Lets go to the next small ridge and cut down and head back to camp,” I said. Once we got to the ridge we found a bachelor group of small bulls. We were sitting there glassing them and decided to have a snack quick before we dropped down. Wouldn’t you know it, here came the freaking wind again as it switched on us and pushed down. A few cows below us started

singling out of the timber. The thoughts in my head of, “Here we go again!” were screaming at me as a bull came out behind the cows. I saw a heavy frame and saw he had a good 5th so I made my decision. Just as he started down over the last hill before he got back into the timber, I let him have it and he rolled the rest of the way down.

Our 2018 season is in the books. Two awesome over-the-counter bulls down. This season threw everything at us with weather, hunters, and several other elements working against us. Grinding it out for 11 days total, including my pack out, was awesome. We are very blessed to live in a state with so many opportunities.



# ASCENT

ADAM MILLBURN • BIGHORN SHEEP • WYOMING

**I always knew that I wanted to have the chance to hunt Bighorn sheep in my life, but never thought it would happen.**

I had been putting in for a permit in Wyoming and other states for the past 19 years. When the draws came around each year the results were always the same and I was left to hope for better luck next year. Wyoming seemed to hold my best chance of drawing a tag since I was very close to drawing in the preference point round. The outfitter I had intended to hunt with, if ever drawn in Wyoming, was John Porter of Morning Creek Outfitters. I believe John knows sheep and the country he guides in better than any man alive. As I stayed in touch with John over the years regarding my failed sheep applications he suggested that I may want to try and obtain one of the Governor sheep permits that are auctioned each year. I was hesitant, due to how much they sell for, but finally gave in, realizing that you only live once. I had John bid for me in the auction at the Eastern Wild Sheep Foundation banquet. We won the tag and I was overjoyed knowing that I was finally going to hunt sheep in Wyoming! Not to mention that with John Porter as my

guide, it sure made for an anticipation filled spring and summer.

I decided that for this special hunt I wanted to hunt later in September and avoid some of the warmer weather which sometimes is present earlier in the season. So, the third weekend of September found me at a motel in Cody, Wyoming going over my gear for one last time before I was to meet John, at his home, the following morning. When I arrived at John's house, I met Mike Harris who guides with John and Terence Knudsen who films for the television show, "The Best of The West." I had no idea that our adventure was going to be filmed for a TV show but was very happy that this special experience was going to be professionally recorded.

The middle part of the first day was spent getting the horses to the trailhead and getting our gear organized and loaded onto John's amazing horses. We then spent the next 4-5 hours riding to where we would set up our camp that we would hunt out of for the duration of the





hunt. We finished getting camp organized just as the sun set over the mountains. It was hard to believe that at dawn I would embark on my dream of hunting the amazing bighorn sheep. Everything seemed perfect. The sounds, smells and views of the wilderness we were in was everything I dreamed they would be.

In the morning we would eat breakfast and then head out on the horses to glass from the ridgetops, in an attempt to find a mature ram. I can't emphasize enough the quality of John's horses along with how appreciative I was to have one hauling my butt to the mountain tops each day! Once on top we would spend almost the entire day up there and only leave with enough light to safely walk the horses back off the mountain and make it into camp in the dark that evening. This routine would play out for the first four days with several rams being seen and a few at very close range. Ultimately we hadn't seen a ram that we wanted to use this special tag on and my trust was in John and Mike to let me know when that special ram was finally spotted. I was beginning to

wonder if we would ever find an old ram but I kept my attitude positive and stayed with the program, knowing that, in time, it would all come together.

On day five we planned to make a long ride to a more remote area where we could look over some country we hadn't yet seen. After the first 2 hours on horseback we had yet to see a ram and were about to make a long climb to a distant ridge when John stopped for a moment to glass from his horse. While looking through the small opening in the trees he said he spotted a group of rams bedded that contained a good one, at what appeared to me to be several miles away. Even knowing the rams were there I still had a hard time seeing them through my optics. I figured after five days I would have trained my eyes to more easily pick out sheep, but that wasn't the case.

Knowing there was a mature ram in the group we set a plan to cover some country on horseback and try to get within a mile from our quarry. It took us about two hours



to get to a point where we could tie off our horses and begin the slow ascent towards the rams. It is this climb in that amazing scenic setting that I will never forget. The pounding heart, aching legs, burning lungs and thoughts filled with doubt were contained in my body with each step I took to get closer to the rams. I knew this would happen to me and actually enjoyed the pain as I knew it was all part of the experience.

When we finally crawled as close as we could possibly get, John chose a spot for me to set up for the shot. For this hunt, I'd decided to use one of John's guns that I knew would be dialed in for the elevation and conditions we were hunting in. With a great deal of confidence in

being able to execute the shot, I settled in on the gun and took a good look at the ram I had waited a lifetime for. With a slow squeeze of the trigger, the gun recoiled and my dream became a reality.

The beautiful 9.5 year old monarch of the mountains was the ram of my dreams and I will always remember this experience as long as I live. I can't thank John Porter, Mike Harris and Terence Knudsen enough for all they did for me on this hunt and am proud to consider each of them as a close friend. Who knows, if the draws ever tip in my favor I may one day be back to do it all over again. If it doesn't happen, well, that's fine too.





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# The Second CHANCE Bull

DUANE EMMETT • SHIRAS MOOSE • WYOMING

**After accumulating 18 preference points for Wyoming moose, I nearly gave up on Unit 1, because I was always one point short of getting into the draw.** My luck changed when I drew the only nonresident tag from a pool of 20 applicants. I called Ross Adney who owns Beaver Trap Outfitters. Ross was pretty booked, but said he could do 5 days archery and 2 days rifle with me. I agreed, hoping 2 days with a rifle was enough to harvest the moose of my dreams.

I arrived in camp mid-afternoon the day before my hunt was to start. Ross had just filled his archery elk tag with a very nice bull. The rest of his clients had just left camp so he suggested we go hunting. We went several miles to an open meadow, then went about 200 yards into the timber and a bull appeared about 60 yards ahead of us. After glassing and studying the bull, Ross said he was definitely a shooter. So, literally 15 minutes into my

hunt, I had an arrow in a nice bull—however, it was not a lethal shot. We followed him until dark, catching several glimpses of him, but I just didn't get another shot.

We returned the next morning and trailed him until we ran out of snow. After watching him, and judging from the lack of blood, Ross knew the bull wasn't going to die. Over the next few days we saw several moose, including a few bulls, but not the big bull I had hit. Our luck changed when it snowed 6-10 inches. This was a real game changer as we were able to pick up fresh tracks.

Saturday morning, we went back to the area where we had lost the bull. We saw several tracks in the road and Ross determined that there was one good bull worth following—we hoped it was my bull. We followed the tracks for quite some time until they crossed another road. Ross told me he would walk back and get the truck





and that I should follow the tracks for another half mile or so and if I hadn't seen anything by then, return to the road. A few hundred yards into the timber I spotted a bull—miraculously it was my bull. He was standing behind some brush so I didn't have a clear bow shot.

After what seemed like an eternity, I shot and was confident that I'd hit him. He wheeled around and bolted away. I picked up the trail and found blood, giving me hope that this would have a good ending. However we did not catch up to the bull by dark. We resumed the next morning and finally caught up to the bull in the middle of the afternoon. The next arrow put him down. It indeed turned out to be the same bull I'd hit the first day. The bull scored out at 168 5/8", truly my dream bull.





# EPIC SNAPSHOT

<b>HUNTER:</b> Steve Wiley	<b>LOCATION:</b> Wyoming	<b>SPECIES:</b> Rocky Mountain Bighorn
<b>SCORE:</b> 165"	<b>TAG TYPE:</b> Draw Tag	<b>GUIDE/OUTFITTER:</b> Justin Jarrett
<b>WEAPON:</b> Thomson Long Range .270 Weatherby		

**WEATHER CONDITIONS:** Warm and clear. 75 degrees during the day, 50 degrees at night. Early September conditions.

**BIGGEST SUCCESS FACTORS:** Good sheep populations, hard work by guides scouting in advance and a good rest for a one shot kill at 450 yards.

**IF YOU HAD TO DO THE SAME HUNT AGAIN, WHAT WOULD YOU DO DIFFERENT:** Not much at all. We shot the best ram we saw over a 3 day period.

**ADVICE FOR MEMBERS ON SIMILAR HUNTS:** Sight your gun in upon arrival to be sure nothing changes.

**COMMENTS:** Great local guides. Excellent hospitality! Wyoming Ram in Unit 12 with guides Justin Jarrett and Jeremy Dickson. We hunted Devil's Canyon for 3 days and saw over 20 rams a day before deciding on this ram. I was fortunate to make a 450 yard shot with my Thompson Long Range .270 Weatherby that I found advertised in Epic Outdoors. I had been purchasing points for 23 years before this hunt-of-a-lifetime. Next on my bucket list is Desert Bighorn in Arizona.

**GEAR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THIS HUNT:** Good glasses (15x) on a tripod, spotting scope for trophy scoring, dress in layers and prepare to peel down before you start hiking.







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# EPIC SNAPSHOT

<b>HUNTER:</b> Kevin Wells	<b>LOCATION:</b> Wyoming	<b>SPECIES:</b> Elk
<b>SCORE:</b> 361 gross	<b>TAG TYPE:</b> Draw Tag	<b>LAND HUNTED:</b> Public
<b>WEATHER CONDITIONS:</b> Cold, low 0-20 degrees, snow, fog.		



**BIGGEST SUCCESS FACTORS:** Years of experience, pushing beyond my comfort zone and faith. Patience also was important, knowing the bull I was looking for existed and the confidence to pass on mature bulls until I found one that really thumped my heartbeat.

**IF YOU HAD TO DO THE SAME HUNT AGAIN, WHAT WOULD YOU DO DIFFERENT:** Maybe push a little higher up the drainages.

**ADVICE FOR MEMBERS ON SIMILAR HUNTS:** Prepare for Grizzly bear encounters, stay focused and work hard. Good gear and clothing to battle the elements is critical as well. Don't try to cover a ton of country on foot. Spend time behind glass from good vantage points to find the bull you are looking for.

**COMMENTS:** Myself and two buddies ventured into the area knowing there were great bulls to hunt. However, dealing with Grizzlies is always an issue. We packed in about 6 miles and found plenty of 300 class bulls before finding this great bull. After 40 years of chasing elk, I found my bull and was blessed with the opportunity for a 200 yard shot. My dream of a great bull finally came to fruition. Being late in the evening, I opted to just gut the bull, tie his head to a tree, and return the next day to quarter and pack him out. Overnight a Grizzly consumed one hind quarter and the gut pile. Fortunately, he was sleeping off his meal somewhere when I returned, allowing me to quarter and get my trophy packed out without too many issues. Upon returning to our camp the following day a bear had ripped up the tent, but there was no damage to our gear. We got camp and two bull elk out successfully, with no injuries. An incredible trip with all the expected hardships from weather, livestock, bears, etc. But the memories will be forever etched in our minds. Hunting beyond my comfort zone and pushing to the limits is what allowed me to harvest this 360 class bull.

**GEAR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THIS HUNT:** I have a combination of Sitka and Kuiu. I like them both. Having quality optics is important as well. Don't skimp on gear. I feel clothing and gear is more important than your firearm. Knowing your skill level with your weapon is critical, but having the best clothing that allows you to bear the elements along with survival gear will give you great confidence to hunt beyond your comfort zone and stay afield longer.







# SUPER TAG

JASON PEATROSS • BIGHORN SHEEP • WYOMING

## Ram



My hunt of a lifetime all started with a phone call from Scott Talbot, the director of Wyoming Game and Fish, in late July of 2018. Scott informed me that I had drawn the Wyoming Bighorn Sheep Super Tag. I was excited and humbled all at the same time. Being an avid hunter all my life, I couldn't believe I was going to have the opportunity to hunt this awesome animal in the high country of Wyoming.

I immediately went to work. The first thing I did was start researching the best outfitter for me. I contacted Adam Bronson with Epic outdoors for some advice, Adam told me that he had heard some great things about Josh Martigoli with Shoshone Outfitters and that

Josh had a reputation for being one of the best outfitters in Wyoming for bighorn sheep hunts. I contacted Josh right away and after our first conversation, I knew that he was the outfitter for me.

I spent the next few months preparing my gear and shooting my 6.5x284, which was custom made by one of my good friends, Jason Timothy, with Tack Drivers Custom Rifles. We spent a bunch of time making sure we had the perfect load built.

When my scheduled hunt date came around in late October, my Brother, Travis, and I loaded our gear in the truck, left Utah and headed for Cody, Wyoming to meet





up with Josh Martiglio and his crew. Upon meeting Josh, he told my brother and I that he wanted to take us into some remote high country that he had never hunted before. We loaded our gear onto the pack train, a mix of horses and mules, and rode about 20 miles into spike camp.

On day two, we woke early, it was cold, and we had a few inches of snow. We loaded the mules again and headed up the mountain, climbing from 9,000 to 12,000 feet in

elevation. After glassing for a few hours, Josh spotted a group of rams about 3 miles away and a couple of drainages over. We knew that the ram I had come to Wyoming to harvest was in this group and this is when the work began.

The next few hours were spent going straight down grassy slopes and then climbing back up very steep grassy slopes. It was rough going and on the verge of treacherous at times, but with Josh's experience as a





mountaineer, there was never any doubt that we were going to make our destination.

When we reached the rocky ridge that this group of sheep were hanging out on, we had to climb another 500 feet (almost vertical) to get into a good shooting position. After getting into position, I made a 437 yard shot to take this ram.

I would chalk this up to one of the greatest hunting experiences of my life. I am so grateful that I had the opportunity to take this 10 year old ram and got to share this experience with my older brother. Hunting is truly one of the greatest joys in my life. Being outdoors and sharing unforgettable experiences with my family and friends is priceless. The comradery that comes with hunting is something that is hard for me to explain, but for those who love the hunt, I'm sure you can relate.





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


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# 18 YEARS

HOPE CRITES • SHIRAS MOOSE • WYOMING



**In October, my husband Greg and I started our journey to Pinedale, Wyoming to go on my moose hunt with Bald Mountain Outfitters.** It took me 18 years to draw the permit and we were excited to see country we had never seen before.

We were to meet Terry Pollard between 8:00 and 8:30 a.m., at which time we would get additional information on the hunt, pay any outstanding balances, verify licenses/conservation tags etc. At the meeting we met Travis Pollard, one of the guides, and Terry's son, plus three additional hunters all named Paul (one from Casper WY, two from New Jersey). Terry wasn't able to meet us that morning, since he was packing meat from a successful elk hunt that took longer than expected. After a short meeting with Travis, the two Paul's from New Jersey (father and son) and Greg and I decided to go

to the rifle range to do some shooting. We would meet Travis for lunch at 12:30 and be ready to go hunting. At lunch, we received additional information regarding the hunts. We would hunt in the mornings, break for lunch with a couple hours rest, then meet at 3:00 p.m. for the afternoon hunt. After lunch, Greg and I went to get settled in our room at the local hotel. We would meet guides, at Terry's house, at 3:00 pm.

We arrived at Terry's house at 2:45, just in case there was any unfinished business that needed to be completed before I started hunting. At that time, we met Terry, who had just arrived before us. He double checked a couple things then sent us hunting with Travis. Within 45 minutes, we came across a cow and calf moose that had just gotten up from their afternoon nap. We glassed the area and found a bull not too far from the cow and





calf. The right side horn had nice palmation with lots of points, but we couldn't get a very good look at the left side. We moved to different locations to get a better look. We also put a Phonescope on the spotting scope, so we could zoom in closer. We found that the left palmation part of the bulls horn had been completely broken off—what a disappointment—he would have been a great trophy if he had both horns. We left him and went looking for the bull that broke it off, but had no luck.

When we arrived for dinner, we were told Paul Jr. had shot his moose. We had told Travis we had brought our saddles just in case we went on horseback, but he didn't think we would need them. Terry asked us if we wanted to go horseback on the next day's hunt. That night was supposed to get down to 8 degrees but we would have sunshine during the day. Our guide would be Dillon James. I wasn't thrilled about the temperature, but agreed to go.

We met Dillon at 5:00 a.m., ate a quick breakfast, then headed to the mountain where the horses and mules were corralled. On the drive up, Greg kept reporting the temperature change as we continued up the mountain,

at 4 degrees, I asked him to stop reporting. The horses we were riding were 17 to 18 hands high, so you needed a stump or rock to mount them. Dillon brought Kevin and Nick with him to help us saddle the horses. We left right at sunrise and it was brisk, but we must have dressed appropriately, because we didn't get cold.

The morning hunt consisted of riding to a couple areas to glass and look for movement. During the ride, we saw a cow with a calf and then a lone cow. The scenery was beautiful, we rode by several mountain lakes, and enjoyed the pure vastness of the terrain. We stopped for lunch at 11:30 and would rest until 2:00, so I took a nap.

That afternoon, we rode to another spot that had several larger clearings, with little ones in between. Dillon asked us to glass, noting that we may see something black and then it would just disappear. Within 15 minutes I saw a moose and told Greg, so he caught Dillon's attention. Dillon made a couple of calls and the moose started coming our way. Greg saw the bull come in, but he was behind a tree and we could only see the left horn. Dillon and I went to another location to get a better view while Greg watched the bull.



At the new location, I could see both horns and he was a nice bull. He was 100 to 150 yards away; I found a rest and shot. The first shot stunned him and he spun around, with the second shot, he got his horns caught in a tree. The bull looked like he was sitting up and possibly still alive. I walked down the hill, while Greg and Dillon brought the horses down. My two shots did the job. The bull scored 296 7/8 SCI, which isn't a monster, but is a respectable moose. His beams are thick with nice palmation and lots of points and remnants of velvet in the right palm. In other words he had character, which is one of the characteristics I look for when hunting.

The next couple hours was spent caping the bull and taking care of the meat. The meat and head would spend the night on the mountain and would be packed out the next day. We rode out after dark, which was interesting, since we were on black horses and couldn't even see their heads. At home we use to ride at night all the time; Dillon thought it was strange that we would do that. Trust me, riding at night back home is totally different than the ride we took on this hunt—I can understand Dillon's confusion! We arrived at Terry's about 9:30 p.m.

and requested to ride the next day with Dillon and Nick to get the meat. Terry told us we were welcome to do that, but we didn't have too. Greg and I explained that going to get the meat was another portion of the hunt and we would love to go.

We met Dillon, Kevin, and Nick at 10:00 a.m. the next morning. On the drive up to get the moose we saw a huge Mule deer with points going everywhere, but he didn't stick around long enough for us to get a picture. Seeing a Mule deer of that quality made our trip worthwhile. We had another sunny day and the ride was packed full of spectacular scenery. The moose was about 10 miles away and we had to cut our way in through a portion of it. We had three mules for the meat and one mule that carried the chainsaw, etc. The day before, Greg had noticed the three rocks that every so often Dillon used to mark the trail, so he decided to harass Dillon by saying some old prospector was going to come down out of the woods and shoot us for trying to jump his claim. We had fun just passing the time as we rode to get the meat, head and cape. This was an awesome experience and I only wish I could do it again.



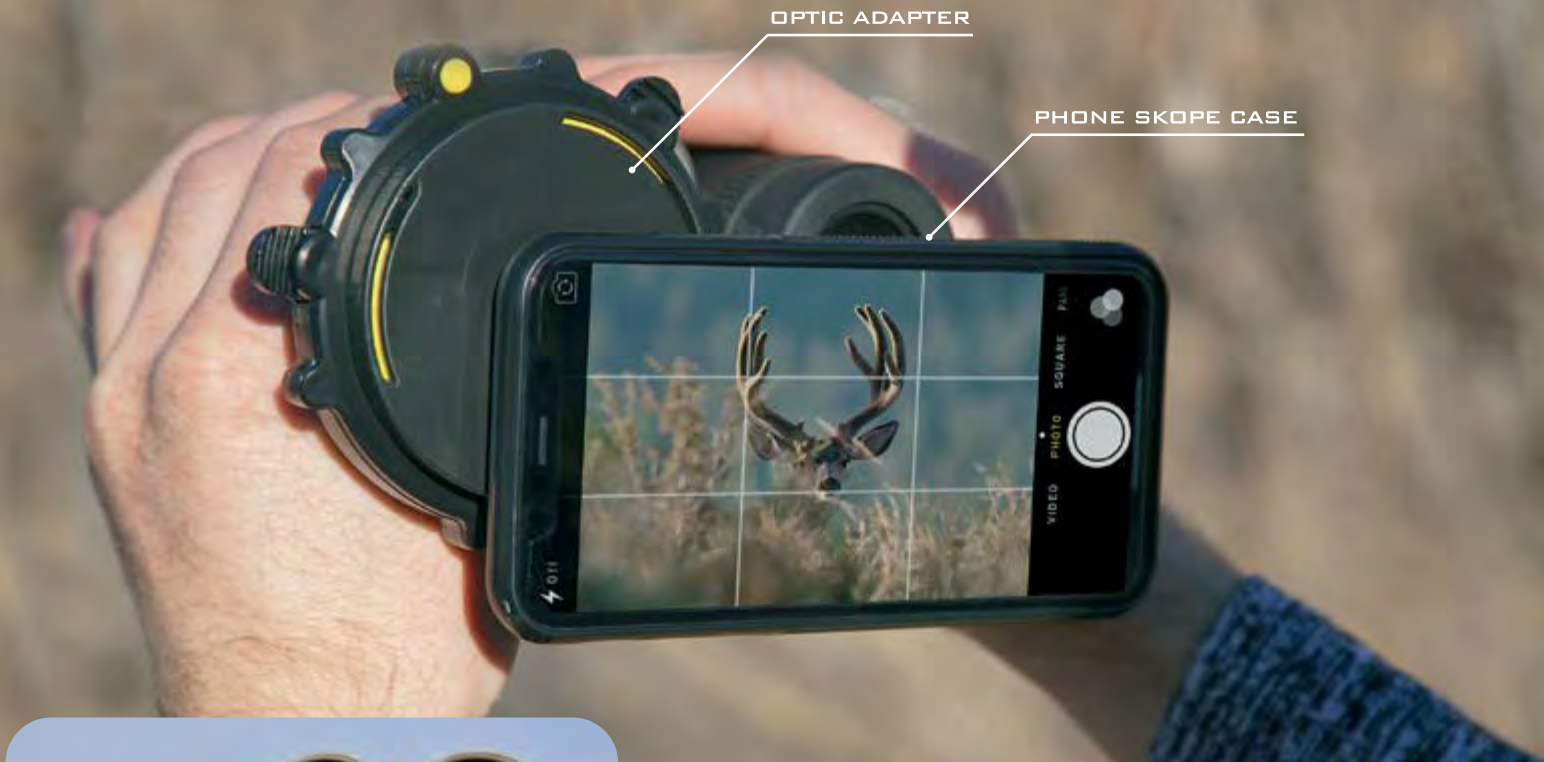


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# EPIC SNAPSHOT

<b>HUNTER:</b> Reid Van Buren	<b>LOCATION:</b> Wyoming	<b>SPECIES:</b> Elk
<b>SCORE:</b> 333"	<b>TAG TYPE:</b> Draw Tag	<b>LAND HUNTED:</b> Public
<b>GUIDE/OUTFITTER:</b> Backcountry Hunting Logistics		

**BIGGEST SUCCESS FACTORS:** Practicing shooting at longer ranges in the wind. Having Jake with me to help.

**IF YOU HAD TO DO THE SAME HUNT AGAIN, WHAT WOULD YOU DO DIFFERENT:** I would have hunted in September, earlier and gotten a scouting package from Backcountry Hunting Logistics

**ADVICE FOR MEMBERS ON SIMILAR HUNTS:** Either prescout or get some help to find the bigger bulls.







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# *First Time's* **THE CHARM**

**BRIAN MIMMS • 48 1/8" MTN GOAT • WYOMING**

**Since I have lots of points built up in many western states and am still playing the waiting game on some, I decided this year to do some random draw applications.**

When I saw the odds of drawing a Mountain goat tag in Wyoming, I decided to give it a go. As luck would have it, I drew the first year I applied.

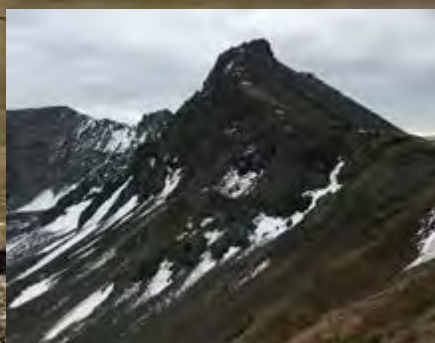
I called my 30 year hunting partner Greg Clark and told him the good news and he was in. Also, another friend of mine, Matt Clark said he may not make it opening day, but he was in too. Now the fun began. I began calling previous hunters and looking at google earth and doing all the research I could. Looking at the unit I drew, I realized that without a guide, it was going to be tough for a resident, let alone a nonresident. The unit was about 80 percent wilderness. I contacted a guy named Andrew, who had hunted this tag the year before. He said he did this hunt on his own, without a guide. I said, 'Perfect, your the guy I want to talk to.' Andrew gave me a lot of info and on a map, we went over areas I would concentrate on for my hunt.

The day before opening day, Greg and I rode our quads as far as we could and then hiked in about 3 miles to

the top of a high ridge and started glassing. It didn't take long before we spotted a couple large goats on the side of a mountain about 2 miles away. Prior to the hunt, Greg and I had been looking online at goat pictures and doing the tests from some of the western states to help you with judging goats and we felt like these two goats were large billies.

Opening day were were on the ridge again and before long we had found our billies. Both goats were on the same mountain, but were not together and one was lower and in a better spot for a stalk, so after looking at them both we decided to go after the lower goat. It took us a couple hours to close the gap, but we ended up getting about 420 yards from the goat. We were trying to get closer when he stood up, turned around and faced our direction. Now we were pinned down, so I decided I would shoot from there. I really felt like my first shot hit him good, but he didn't go down— a follow up shot sent him tumbling down the mountain. Once we got to the goat, we were surprised how big he was and Greg commented, "We are in trouble." We had a 5 mile pack out and we'd had a Grizzly bear encounter that morning, so I really wanted to get out of there before dark. My





idea of fun doesn't include carrying a bunch of meat on my back in the dark where a Grizzly is hanging out.

After a full body skinning and boning out the meat, we started our trek out of there. After 7 tough hours of hiking with heavy packs, we made it back to our quads just before dark. About that time, my friend Matt was coming up the trail on his quad, we stopped to tell him the news. He congratulated us and was bummed he was not there for the hunt, but he was glad we got a great goat. When we checked the goat in, it was aged at 7 and had 9 5/8" horn length. I was pleased because I had read

it was tough to find a mature billy in this unit. This hunt was short but definitely one for the books.

I would like to thank my best friend and hunting partner Greg for taking time off work to go with me. I could not have done this hunt without him and wouldn't want too. Thanks to my friend Matt for driving all the way from Arizona, by himself, to help. I know he would have liked to have been in on the action. I called Andrew after the hunt and thanked him again for the help and he congratulated me on a great goat. Hopefully I can pay it forward to a lucky hunter some day.



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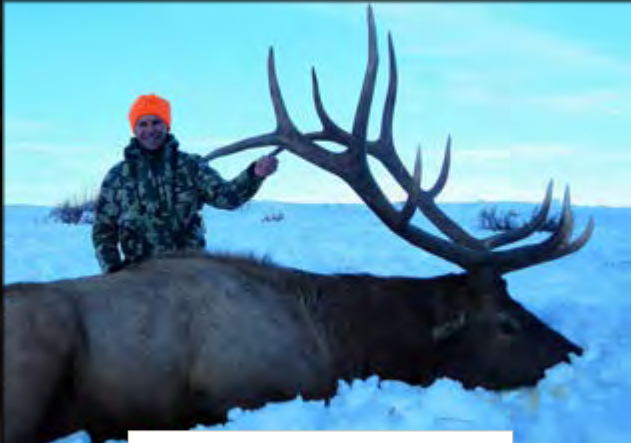
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# NORTHERN ADVENTURES

BY JEFF JOHN

**August is a sacred time of year in the west, full of excitement for hunters, guides and outfitters. There is always buzz from our friends and neighbors about what hunts they have coming up for the fall.**

The first hunters to jump into action are the sheep hunters heading north into Canada, to hunt Dall and Stone sheep. Imagine what its like in towns like Whitehorse, in the Yukon, being the main hub for several outfitting operations. Outfitters are flying their clients deeper into the Yukon Territory or dropping Stone sheep hunters off in northern BC. The last few days of July must be buzzing with excitement, in those towns. Just after the rush to Canada is the next wave of Dall sheep hunters to Alaska. It is truly an amazing sight to stop into a town

like Tok, Alaska and watch the incredible number of small planes locked in a constant revolving loop coming and going, loaded with Dall sheep hunters, as well as, some of the early caribou hunters being dropped off on a barren ridge or gravel bar along a river. For us who live in the lower 48 and spend way too much time dreaming about such an amazing place, it truly is an incredible place. We long for the adventure and opportunity to be there and enjoy those experiences.







Closely following the wave of sheep and caribou hunters, begins the moose, grizzly, Brown bear, and Mountain goat hunts. With so many opportunities and species to pursue, it's no wonder many of us have an unquenchable thirst to be hunting Northern Canada and Alaska. These hunts offer experiences that are unmatched in the world of hunting.

I was fortunate enough to be able to spend some time in Alaska this year and it truly did not disappoint. Along with my father, Kevin and brother, Dustin, we decided that we would load up a truck and trailer and drive to Alaska, for a caribou hunt. We planned the timing of the trip based around the opening day of the Forty-mile Caribou hunt. We were able to split the drive in half with my mother and father driving up with our truck and four wheelers a few days early so they were able to do some fishing before Dustin and I were to arrive in Fairbanks via plane. We met up at the airport, put my mother on a flight home, and we were off to hunt Caribou along the Steese Highway, northwest of Fairbanks.

We drove till we found the many resident hunters parked along the side of the road. Their atv trailers unloaded and they were heading up the mountain sides, above the forested side hills and onto the open ridges. We decided to follow suit, and it wasn't long before it was obvious that we had hit the Forty-mile migration just right.

Because the area is a registration hunt, there is a harvest limit and we knew that it would be filling up quickly with

the amount of hunters in the field harvesting bulls. We got aggressive and found some bulls we were happy with. Within 5 hours we, had 3 bulls on the ground. After that we had time to drive through Alaska and see some amazing sights. We drove north from Fairbanks to Coldfoot and through Atigun Pass in the middle of the Brooks Range. Then back down the Alaska Highway past Denali and down to Anchorage. It was truly an amazing adventure!

If hunting in Alaska or Canada are in your future plans, please give us a call here at Epic Outdoors. We want to help you plan your next hunt. We spend many hours chatting with members about the hunts they have been on and we learn a lot about the different outfitters in Canada and Alaska, as well as throughout the states. We know the areas that are producing, and the outfitters that are getting it done for their clients. Our job at Epic Outdoors is truly to help save you the time and the expense of booking a hunt with the wrong outfit. We take pride in our members successful hunts and want them to succeed again and again.

You will want to be aggressive about getting a hunt booked. Most of these hunts are booking 2-3 years in advance. We do see a few one spot openings in the 2019 season, but the majority of the outfitters that we are working with, are looking to fill up their 2020 schedules at the upcoming shows. If you want in on one of these hunts, let's get a plan in place now and start working toward your adventure!





# HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES

## JEFF — EPIC HUNT SPECIALIST

**We have hundreds of Epic Approved Outfitters that we trust to help you make the most of a really great tag.** Our outfitters also have guaranteed tags you don't have to draw. These hunting opportunities are just waiting for you, but most good opportunities book fast. If you're in the position to buy hunts, call now!

Again this year, we've seen a trend of hunts booking earlier and faster than normal. If you plan on hunting a specific species in the next three to four years you need to have a plan. Call me, let's find the best hunt for your specific needs.

**CALL 435-263-0777 FOR DETAILS ON ANY OPPORTUNITY**



HUNT #: 190101	SPECIES: Dall Sheep	LOCATION: Alaska	PRICE: \$16,000
DATES: Aug 10-20, 2019		WEAPON: Any Weapon	
This outfitter guides in the Alaska Range near the border of Denali National Park. This area is known for having a great age class with the average age of ram near 9 years old and exceeding 36". As with most sheep hunts, you will need to be in good physical condition for this hunt. There is a \$2,800 air charter service fee for this hunt. Grizzly and Caribou can be added to this hunt for an additional fee.			



HUNT #: 190102	SPECIES: Moose	LOCATION: Alaska	PRICE: \$20,000
DATES: Sept 2019		WEAPON: Any Weapon	
If you have ever done a drop camp moose hunt, you likely had the thought, "This would be easier with horses." Well this outfitter has them! Go on a fully guided hunt and cover the miles everyday on horseback. These hunts are considerably less physical than a DIY moose hunt and have better success rates as well! Outfitters area is located in the Alaska Range just east of Denali National Park.			



HUNT #: 190103	SPECIES: Brown Bear	LOCATION: Alaska	PRICE: \$27,500
DATES: October 2019		WEAPON: Any Weapon	
This area on the Alaska Peninsula has produced several record book bears and even a couple in the top 10! Outfitter runs the largest exclusive concession on the peninsula and works hard to make your hunt as successful and enjoyable as possible. There is one spot remaining in the 2019 fall season and a couple left for the 2020 spring season.			



HUNT #: 190104	SPECIES: Moose/Grizzly	LOCATION: Alaska	PRICE: \$22,500
DATES: Sept 1-10 2020		WEAPON: Any Weapon	
It's hard for most outfitters to say that they average over 90% on their moose hunts, but this outfitter has managed stay over that with nearly a 60" average with two bulls from the 2018 season scored over the Boone and Crockett minimum. The moose population seems to be growing in the area and future hunters are likely to see these averages continue into the future.			



## EPIC HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES



HUNT #: 190105	SPECIES: Dall	LOCATION: Alaska	PRICE: \$19,000
DATES: August 2019		WEAPON: Any Weapon	
Outfitter has 2 spots left in 2019 that he needs to fill. Hunters in 2018 had a great year going 8 out of 10 with a couple guys just having bad luck on missed shots or opportunities. This outfitter also utilizes horses to help eliminate the long hikes into the hunting area. Hunters will still need to be able to hike to position to kill their ram, but will likely have fresh legs to get them there. Horses eliminate roughly 80% of all hiking necessary to kill a Dall sheep. Fly into Fairbanks and take a short flight from there to the area you will be hunting.			



HUNT #: 190106	SPECIES: Moose/Mountain Goat	LOCATION: British Columbia	PRICE: \$13,000
DATES: September 2019		WEAPON: Any Weapon	
Hunt cost is \$13,000 with a kill fee of \$5,000 on your second animal. This area is in the extreme north end of British Columbia. The bulls are still considered a Canadian moose but are closer in size to an Alaska/Yukon moose. This outfitter has maintained a near 100% success rate on his mountain goat hunts over the past few years with abundant herds and true trophy potential in the area.			



HUNT #: 190107	SPECIES: Grizzly/Caribou	LOCATION: Alaska	PRICE: \$16,500
DATES: August 2020		WEAPON: Any Weapon	
This outfitter has an exclusive concession in the Brooks Range with Nearly 40 miles of river running through it. Tag numbers in the area are tightly controlled to keep populations stable. This is a float hunt for Caribou and Grizzly bear, which allows for better food and a heavier tent, in comparison to backpack hunting. Hunters are still asked to be in good physical condition and be prepared for long days. There is a \$1,500 air taxi fee after arriving in Ft. Yukon.			



HUNT #: 190108	SPECIES: Moose	LOCATION: Yukon	PRICE: \$21,000
DATES: September 2020		WEAPON: Any Weapon	
Hunt with a great outfitter for giant moose in 2020. This outfitter has a long standing reputation for being one of the best outfitters on the mountain. He has a very large concession and continues to open up new country every year. During this hunt, you will be traveling via boat on a large lake and working rutting bulls as they look for cows. If you are looking for a hunt, and you don't care for horseback hunting, this is a great option. Hunters enjoy 90% success rates on this hunt.			



HUNT #: 190109	SPECIES: Moose	LOCATION: Alaska	PRICE: \$17,000
DATES: Sept. 1-20 2019		WEAPON: Any Weapon	
You will be flown by super cub into this outfitters area where you will be staying, at a slightly heavier base camp, with a few more comforts than a typical backpack style hunt. You will be able to strike out from there and glass the expanse of drainages and lowlands for a big bull. Hunters are averaging 90% over the past 4 years. There is a \$3,400 air charter fee for this hunt.			



<b>HUNT #:</b> 190110	<b>SPECIES:</b> Fannin Sheep	<b>LOCATION:</b> British Columbia	<b>PRICE:</b> \$19,000 + \$8,500
<b>DATES:</b> August 2019		<b>WEAPON:</b> Any Weapon	
<p>This is an exceptional Fannin sheep hunt available in 2019. Outfitter went 3 for 3 and one hunter harvested a 42" ram in 2018! With only three sheep hunters per year, this outfitters area is under hunted. Hunters must be in good physical condition and be ready to cover some miles. There is an air charter fee of \$1,500 to get to your hunting area, after you arrive in Whitehorse. Hunt cost is \$19,000 plus a kill fee of \$8,500. This ram will qualify as a Stone sheep for your slam!</p>			



HUNT #: 190111	SPECIES: Dall/Grizzly combo	LOCATION: Alaska	PRICE: \$26,500
DATES: Aug 28-Sept 10, 2020		WEAPON: Any Weapon	
Outfitter only has one spot left for the 2020 season for a Dall/Grizzly combo hunt on the west side of the Alaska Range. Outfitter boasts over 90% success rates on his Dall sheep hunts and went 7 for 7 in 2018 with an average length exceeding 37". Get your hunt booked, it won't be long before this hunt is gone!			



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