

Happy New Year to all our hunters and we wish you all the best in 2007. I would also like to thank each of those hunters who generously contributed to our fund raising efforts for Blue Bronna Wilderness Camp last year. The camp had approximately 540 campers last year and is presently expanding by hiring more full time staff to take even more people outdoors and into the great Canadian Rockies.

As most of you know our costs in Alberta have skyrocketed this past year with high fuel prices, a low American dollar and the oil field driving up wage costs. Many of you have asked whether we have been able to keep our past guides and we are proud to say that their loyalty has continued and if anything we produced better animals again this year. Sadly we will need to increase our prices in 2007 and after consulting with different clients we have chosen to go with a new format which allows the hunter greater flexibility in his choices and price range.

If you are looking to hunt with us our prices will be based on a cost of \$1000/day for rifle hunts and \$750/day for bow or bear hunts with a minimum of five days for any one hunt. Another species may be added for \$2500.00. Please let me know ASAP when you would like to come. We will continue offering hunts during peak times.

This spring we started off with 100% success on black bears. Stuart Morrison returned and took our first bear with a clean shot on his first day. Chris and Michael Bixby then connected on 3 bears followed by Mr. James Hayden. James was looking for a huge black and although we stocked within 200 yards of a 375 lb. bear, we decided not to shoot him as we had seen a 450+ in the area the night before. Unfortunately we were not able to locate him again but I am quite sure he will be around again this spring.

During the summer months the pack trips and fishing trips were again very successful as BBWC took more trips than ever into the back country. By the end of August we again set up our spike camps gambling on where the elk would be. Thankyou to Mr. Don Nickel and his grandson for coming up and spending a week helping put in the camps.

We were pleasantly surprised at the amount of big bulls we saw while elk hunting this year; however we just could not quite put it together. Normally we average in the 65% + range but this year we just did not seem to get them on the ground. Mike Caverly stuck two six point herd bulls at 7 and 40 yds. But we did not get either one. Quinton Woller hurt his knee on the first day's hike and although we got within 50 yds of a very good bull he was not able to get a shot as the cows kept coming to us at 24 yds. Charles Burger had bulls bugling all around him, then had a bear charge right at him which he shot at point blank range. This is all very exciting but after bow hunting it was elk 4 hunters 0.

Rifle elk hunting seemed to continue on the same course even though Brad Brown did get Pete Demos a nice 6*6 and a smaller bull for John Supina. Jim Supina shot a nice 50" Shiras moose while his daughter missed a great mule deer and her husband, Carl connected on a 178" mountain muley guided by Tanner Walgenbauch.

Both John Johnson and Ken Vorisek shot nice Shiras moose with their bows and our last Shiras moose hunter, Mr. Don Graham elected not to shoot the Shiras moose we had tied up for him. A moose literally got into the electric fence (which was off) of the horse corral when we were not in and wrapped his antlers in the fence. When we got there the next morning we went to call in back of the camp (I had an 11*11 and a 12*10

moose there the prior week with 6 cows). We heard a bull in the timber and spent an hour calling and then stalking him with a muzzle loader. When we finally got to where we could see him we realized that he was tied up.

Deciding it wasn't very sporting to shoot a tied bull we called Fish and Wildlife who proceeded to tranquilize the bull and set him free only to have the bull die before he got up again. Don went home without a moose but came back in November to finish the job. He tracked down an excellent 50" bull with guide Josh Johnson, missed 3 mountain muleys (180+) and blew a stalk on an excellent 6*6 bull elk all in 2 days.

In our northern moose camp we hit the timing right on the money in spite of an accident which delayed us a couple days. When the hunters pulled into camp an oilfield worker came in and told us he had just seen a big moose 4 miles up the road. We sent one hunter and Tanner up and they missed the bull twice at two hundred yards. In the next three days I managed to guide Ben Vance, Kevin Smith and Jim White all to good bulls. Meghan Hurlburg guided Merlel Ihne to get his moose and then located a great whitetail deer.

As I was done guiding moose and so was Meghan she elected to guide me for this whitetail and the second morning into our hunt I shot a gross 192 White Tail. There is more to this story as it took a couple days for the ravens to find the deer, however I am very pleased to have ended up with him. Cooks Heather Majak and Hali Kopeechuk along with Brad Brown, Tanner, and Jeff Miller completed the staff on this hunt. The other two hunters saw several bulls but both elected to hold out for monsters and as the rut waned we were not able to come up with them.

As normal we ran our muley and whitetail deer bow hunts in the third & fourth weeks of October. We ran into some very ugly weather and although we saw some great deer we did much poorer than normal. It is tough to spot and stalk mule deer in rain and fog when you can not even see far enough to put them to bed.

In November we again returned to our staple of rifle whitetail and mule deer hunts. The deer were awesome in the cold weather and we went 73% kill on the Whiteys and 92% on Muleys. Unfortunately we left some great whitetails out there but we averaged in the 160" category.

I guided Russ Kramer for a gross 202 muley, Rod Boyer 183, Russ Young 199 and Ray Robertson 185. Joel Wilkinson found a great 5*5 whitetail and a 178 muley for Lloyd Whaley. Josh pulled in some nice deer with Dan Himebauch and Lloyd's son, Todd. Jeff Miller and Brad Brown consistently led their hunters to deer in the 140-170 range as they worked the whitetail end of things for us.

On the third last day of Ray Robinson's hunt we missed an opportunity at a huge whitetail which I have since heard was killed the next day. If it is the same deer it scored 233 and was shot within a couple of miles of where we saw it. Unfortunately this is one deer which we won't have the opportunity to go after again next year. Oh well where there has been one big deer another one will show up within a year or two. Hopefully it does next season. See you at Reno SCI booth 3023.

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