



FIRST HUNT WITH THE RUGER-MADE MARLIN 1895, P. 26

GAME & FISH

WEST

The Regional Outdoor Guide

GAFMAG.COM
OCTOBER 2022

TM

**WELCOME
TO
MULEY
COUNTRY**
**TACTICS FOR
EVERY HABITAT**

PACK-OUT TIPS FOR
MEAT, HEAD & HIDE

**SWING A SPEY ROD
FOR FALL TROUT**

**BEAT THE CROWDS TO
RIFLE-SEASON ELK**

**HUNT WILDFIRE
BURNS FOR
BLACKTAILS**

**THE WEST'S
BEST CHUKAR
HOT SPOTS**

REGION ROUNDUP

- COLORADO ELK
- TUNDRA SWANS
- BIG SKY ROOSTERS
- OREGON CHINOOKS
- PUGET SOUND DUCKS
- NORTH PLATTE BROWNS
- ARIZONA BUCKETMOUTHS



CHEFS GONE WILD



A promotional image for the TV show 'Taste of the Wild'. It features five men and a goat. In the background, three men stand: one on the left with a beard and mustache, one in the center smiling, and one on the right wearing a black beanie and a jacket with 'AMERICA SERIES INC' on it. In the foreground, two men are seated. The man on the left is smiling and wearing a camouflage jacket. The man on the right is wearing a tan baseball cap and a dark jacket, looking directly at the camera. A goat is positioned between them, its head and antlers visible. The entire scene is set against a warm, golden-brown background with a soft glow around the men's heads.

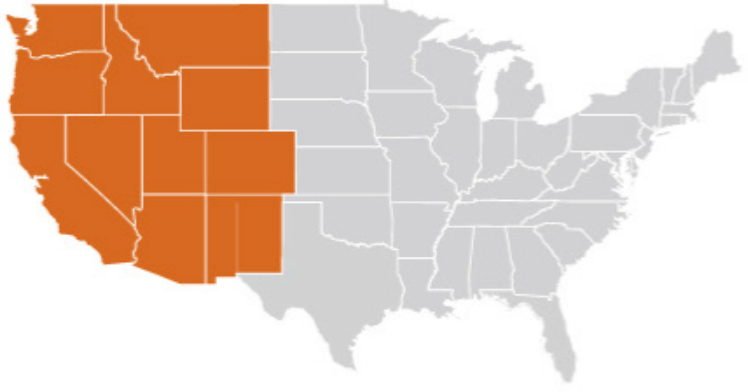
TASTE OF THE WILD

Meet the most influential wild fish and game chefs on earth. They're expert hunters, anglers and gatherers who know their way around a kitchen — or a campfire. Award-winning British restaurateur Mike Robinson, Australian adventurer and chef Mario Kalpou, outdoor lifestyle pioneer Daniel Vitalis, and California fishing legend Tommy Gomes will take you on unforgettable culinary journeys, preparing delicious, healthy dishes using only fresh, wild ingredients.

MONDAYS BEGINS **7**^P **Outdoor**

GAME & FISH WEST

The Regional Outdoor Guide



REGIONAL EDITOR: Chuck Smock, Chuck.Smock@OutdoorSG.com | COVER IMAGE: John Hafner Photography | [@GAMEANDFISHMAG](https://www.instagram.com/GAMEANDFISHMAG) | [FACEBOOK.COM/GAMEANDFISH](https://www.facebook.com/GAMEANDFISH)

CONTENTS
OCTOBER 2022



54

HOW-TO

42 IN PURSUIT OF MULEYS

Tips and tactics for finding mule deer in any habitat, from the high country to the desert floor.

By Art Isberg

54 BESTING THE MASSES

Close the distance on pressured elk during the general rifle season.

By Bob Robb



42

48 SCORCHED EARTH

Blacktails are returning to areas previously affected by wildfires, and the hunting is heating up.

By Scott Haugen

62 SWING INTO FALL

Downsize your steelhead spey gear to target hungry trout.

By Gary Lewis



62

36 AROUND THE WEST

Fins, feathers and a whole lot of antlers await in October.

By Andrew McKean

FIELD SKILLS

38 PACK-OUT POINTERS

Learn the most efficient way to load and haul meat, head and hide from deep in the backcountry.

By Andrew McKean

DESTINATIONS

68 CHUKAR QUEST

The region's top spots for the ultimate Western upland hunt.

By Gary Lewis

12



16



20



26



FEATURES

26 MULEY WITH A MARLIN

The venerable Marlin Model 1895 lever gun returns in updated form to hunt mule deer in the rocky hills of far West Texas.

By Adam Heggenstaller

74 MILES FOR MOOSE

Waiting 30-plus years to draw a moose tag turns out to be the easy part as a hunter goes deep into the North Maine Woods to find a bull.

By Michael F.X. Cassidy

GEAR

80 BUYER'S GUIDE

From Bergara to Winchester, we take a look at eight rifles that all weigh less than 7 pounds for easier hikes into trophy hideouts.

By Game & Fish Staff

86 PRICE POINTS

The convenience of a rangefinding binocular is available at several price levels, and it may be more affordable than you think.

By Adam Heggenstaller

IN EVERY ISSUE

04 EDITOR'S LETTER

10 MOON TIMES

88 RITES

DEPARTMENTS

12 SHOOTING

Bullets have a wide variety of tip, or point, styles. How do you choose the best one for hunting?

By Richard Mann

16 BOWHUNTING

It's not a lull, it's a transition. Food and pressure determine where whitetail bucks hang out in October.

By Tony Hansen

20 VEHICLES

Convert a cargo trailer into a comfy and efficient camp that you can tow to your hunting spot.

By Gary Lewis

24 CONSERVATION

Researchers are finding that summer habitat plays a role in the health of big-game populations even in winter.

By Andrew McKean

74





DON'T MISS ... AGAIN

I missed a buck last season. There, I said it. I don't feel any better. The only thing that brings some relief is I took the deer with the next shot. You can read about it in the feature that starts on page 26.

Misses happen, and I can accept that. The part that baffles me is I don't know why I missed. If I hadn't been steady, I could pin it on a wobbly rifle. If I had jerked the trigger or hadn't followed through, I could blame it on poor shooting mechanics. If I had misjudged the distance or the wind, I could chalk it up to not paying attention. If I had been overly excited, I could point the finger at buck fever. But I honestly don't recall any of those things being the case. I know better than to blame my rifle or scope or ammo because it had worked perfectly just a couple hours before and then performed as expected just a couple seconds after the dreaded miss.

Things like that have a way of sticking in a hunter's head. The only way I know to get over it is to spend time on the range. Trigger therapy, if you will. Sessions that rebuild confidence. If you missed last season, too, join me.

There's just one rule: After we check our zeros, we're leaving the bench. We need to train like we hunt, and very few of us hunt from a bench. A rail around a treestand or a blind may seem steady, but unlike a shooting bench, there usually isn't a surface on which to rest your elbows. That can make a big difference.

Simulate the shooting positions you expect to use in the field during practice. If you're going to hunt with shooting sticks, set them up, settle in and fire from them. Planning on using your pack as a rest? Practice shooting from it. Still-hunters and spot-and-stalkers should practice from the kneeling, sitting and even offhand positions. I know, that last one isn't any fun, but the only way to become a better offhand shot is to do more shooting offhand.

We owe it to ourselves, and the game we hunt, to do everything we can to make our first shot a good one. Practice so you're ready to take your best shot. Then when we miss, we can just blame it on plain ol' bad luck.

Adam Heggenstaller
Editorial Director

GAME & FISH

The Regional Outdoor Guide

PUBLISHER

Michael F. X. Cassidy

EDITORIAL

EDITORIAL DIRECTOR

Adam Heggenstaller
Adam.Heggenstaller@outdoorsg.com

EDITOR

John Taranto
John.Taranto@outdoorsg.com

REGIONAL EDITORS

Dr. Todd A. Kuhn
Chuck Smock
Drew Warden

ONLINE CONTENT EDITOR

Scott Bernarde

ART DIRECTOR

Brian Judge

ASSISTANT ART DIRECTOR

Andrew Tuchscherer

PRODUCTION

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Melissa Williams
Melissa.Williams@outdoorsg.com

ADVERTISING

NATIONAL ENDEMIC AD SALES

Jim McConville | (440) 791-7017
James.McConville@outdoorsg.com

WESTERN REGION

Hutch Looney
Hutch@HLooney.com

MARINE/FISHING ADVERTISING

Michael Cassidy | (407) 625-0992
Michael.Cassidy@outdoorsg.com

MIDWESTERN REGION

Mark Thiffault | (720) 630-9863
Mark.Thiffault@outdoorsg.com

NATIONAL AD SALES

ACCOUNT DIRECTOR DETROIT OFFICE

Kevin Donley | (248) 798-4458
Kevin.Donley@outdoorsg.com

NATIONAL ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE CHICAGO OFFICE

Carl Benson | (312) 955-0496
Carl.Benson@outdoorsg.com

DIRECT RESPONSE AD/ NON-ENDEMIC

Anthony Smyth | (914) 409-4202
anthony@smythps.com



TRUST IS EARNED

The **VX-3HD 4.5-14 x 40** is built to outlast and outperform. While others warranty failure, we guarantee unmatched optical clarity and rugged reliability for life. Because at Leupold, failure is not an option.



BE RELENTLESS



TRENDING NOW AT GAME & FISH ONLINE

GET TIPS, SEE GEAR AND CELEBRATE THE LIFESTYLE AT GAFMAG.COM



CATCH HUNGRY LARGEMOUTHS

Season 3 of our exclusive online series, “Beyond the Bait,” focuses on the most popular tactics to catch largemouth bass. Find new episodes under “Watch.”



OWN YOUR HUNT

Hunting in America finds its groove in October with multiple seasons in full swing. Check out “Ultimate Season” for videos, tips, new gear, recipes and more.



LOVIN' LITHIUM

Read why lithium-based batteries are a game-changer in “Lithium Energizing the Way We Harness Marine Power” by Dr. Todd Kuhn from ICAST 2022.



HEAVIER THAN AIR

Adam Heggenstaller takes a look at advancements in air guns, including the .25-caliber Umarex Origin, in “Hunting with Air for Small and Large Game.”



BE A PEPPER

You'll find dozens of great ways to prepare venison on gafmag.com, including fun-to-make Dr. Pepper Venison Jerky. Get more tasty ideas under “Recipes.”



'YAK ATTACK

Fishing kayaks continue to push the limits on design and functionality. See what's cool in “New Fishing Kayaks and More from ICAST 2022.”

OUTDOOR SPORTSMAN GROUP® PUBLISHING & BRANDED MEDIA

**CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER,
PUBLISHING & BRANDED MEDIA**
Mike Carney

EVP, GROUP PUBLISHER & OPERATIONS
Derek Sevcik

VP, CONSUMER MARKETING
Peter Watt

VP, MANUFACTURING
Deb Daniels

SENIOR DIRECTOR, PRODUCTION
Connie Mendoza

DIRECTOR, PUBLISHING TECHNOLOGY
Kyle Morgan

SENIOR CREATIVE DIRECTOR
Tim Neher

DIRECTOR, DIGITAL EDITORIAL
Jeff Phillips

For questions regarding digital editions,
please contact digitalsupport@outdoorsg.com.

MEDIA
OUTDOORSG.COM

TELEVISION
OUTDOORCHANNEL.COM
THESPORTSMANCHANNEL.COM
WORLDFISHINGNETWORK.COM

HUNTING
BOWHUNTER.COM
BOWHUNTINGMAG.COM
GAMEANDFISHMAG.COM
GUNDOGSMAG.COM
NORTHAMERICANWHITETAIL.COM
PETERSHUNTING.COM
WILDFOWLIMAG.COM

FISHING
BASSFAN.COM
FLORIDASPORTSMAN.COM
FLYFISHERMAN.COM
GAMEANDFISHMAG.COM
IN-FISHERMAN.COM

SHOOTING
FIREARMSNEWS.COM
GUNSAMMO.COM
HANDGUNS.COM
RIFLESHOOTERMAG.COM
SHOOTINGTIMES.COM

SUBSCRIPTION INQUIRIES: For address changes, subscriptions or questions, e-mail GNFcustserv@cdsfulfillment.com, call (877) 416-2649 or write Game & Fish, P.O. Box 37539, Boone, IA 50037-0539. **BE AWARE THAT GAME & FISH ONLY ACCEPTS SUBSCRIPTION REQUESTS FROM AUTHORIZED AGENTS! WE MAY NOT HONOR REQUESTS FROM UNAUTHORIZED AGENTS, AND YOU THEREFORE MAY LOSE YOUR MONEY IF YOU BUY FROM AN UNAUTHORIZED AGENT.** If you are offered a subscription to Game & Fish, please call (877) 416-2649 to determine if the agent is authorized. For more information on subscription scams, please visit www.ftc.gov.

Occasionally, our subscriber list is made available to reputable firms offering goods and services that we believe would be of interest to our readers. **If you prefer to be excluded, please send your current address label and a note requesting to be excluded from these promotions to: Outdoor Sportsman Group®, 1040 6th Ave., 17th Floor, New York, NY 10018, Attn: Privacy Coordinator, or email your label information and note to privacy@outdoorsg.com.**

REPRINTS: Reprints/Eprints or Licensing/Permissions, contact Wright's Media at (877) 652-5295.

CONTRIBUTIONS: Contact Drew Warden at Warden@outdoorsg.com for writer's guidelines. The Publisher assumes no responsibility for loss or damage to unsolicited material.

GAME & FISH MAGAZINE EDITORIAL OFFICE
6385 Flank Drive, Suite 800, Harrisburg, PA 17112
(717) 695-8171 | Fax (717) 545-2527

PRINTED IN THE U.S.A.

Copyright 2022 by Outdoor Sportsman Group®. All Rights Reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced without written permission from the Publisher.

GAME&FISH® is a registered trademark of Outdoor Sportsman Group® in the United States.

The Publisher and authors make no representations or warranties regarding the accuracy, completeness, and timeliness of the information contained in this publication. Any reliance or use of the information is solely at your own risk, and the authors and Publisher disclaim any and all liability relating thereto. Any prices given in this issue were suggested prices at the press time and are subject to change. Some advertisements in this magazine may concern products that are not legally for sale to California residents or residents in other jurisdictions.



Cruise Close to Home[®] *along the scenic shores of New England*

Explore picturesque seaport towns and quaint island villages on our 11-day Boston round-trip cruise. Discover the best of New England, while visiting Newport, Provincetown, Martha's Vineyard, Bar Harbor, and more.

Small Ship Cruising Done Perfectly[®]



Call
888-252-1942
to request a
★ FREE ★
Cruise Guide





GET MORE WITH MOTV

TAPPING INTO TOP HUNTING AND FISHING
PROGRAMS HAS NEVER BEEN EASIER.

SPECIAL OFFER

When you're not able to get into the field or on the water, find the adventure you seek by accessing exciting hunting and fishing content through MOTV. The video-on-demand service caters to the outdoor lifestyle, and it's available through mobile phones and tablets, desktops and laptops using an Internet browser, smart TVs and other devices.

Catch all the past episodes of programs such as North American Whitetail, In-Fisherman TV, Petersen's Hunting Adventures, Bowhunter TV, Guns & Ammo and more. Plus you'll get access to special how-to series like Ultimate Season, and "Just Shot" or "Just Caught" content exclusive to MOTV. You can choose what you want to watch from more than 20,000 searchable episodes. Or, you can just lean back and watch MOTV Huntstream, a new live channel featuring the best hunting content from MOTV.

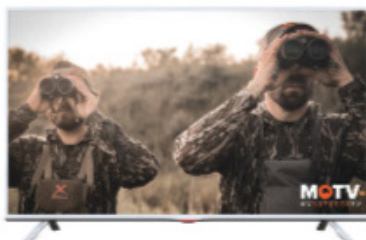
If you're unable to tune into Outdoor Channel, Sportsman Channel or World Fishing Network, MOTV is the place to watch the programming you have missed. The service provides you with the great outdoor content you love, on your schedule.

For a limited time, MOTV is offering *Game & Fish* readers a 30-day free trial with a monthly subscription. You can watch all the shows you want during your 30-day free trial and cancel at any time. Starting your MOTV trial is simple. Scan the QR code or go to app.myoutdoortv.com. Click the "Start Your Free Trial" button, select "Choose Monthly," and then enter the promotional code GAMEFISH22 at checkout.



THE SHOWS YOU WANT, WHEN YOU WANT

MOTV offers a diverse range of hunting, fishing and outdoor-adventure content. Here's just a sample.



NORTH AMERICAN WHITETAIL

North American Whitetail remains among the most popular and longest-running shows on outdoor television, focused entirely on the pursuit of North America's most beloved big-game species, the white-tailed deer.



IN-FISHERMAN TV

Following the format of *In-Fisherman* magazine, the show focuses on the pursuit of everything that swims in freshwater and near-shore coastal waters, including bass, walleyes, pike, muskies, catfish, panfish, trout, salmon and other species.



PETERSEN'S HUNTING ADVENTURES

Travel the globe in pursuit of the world's most sought-after big-game species from the Colorado Rockies to the dark forests of Hungary and just about everywhere in between. Elk, boar, eland, ibex and more are on the list.



RIP, GSP
BREEDER & TRAINER: NO LIMITS KENNELS



NEW



GAME CHANGING PUPPY FUEL

Tomorrow's performance hinges on today's nutrition. Help give your active puppy an advantage with NEW Eukanuba™ Premium Performance Puppy Pro, our best puppy nutrition yet. Fuel growth and activity, support digestive health and promote trainability.

EukanubaSportingDog.com | [@EukanubaSportingDog](https://www.instagram.com/EukanubaSportingDog)

**WE CARRY
MATCH GRADE**

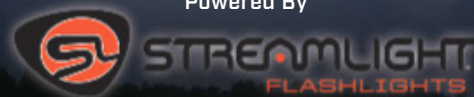


Each order is individually mixed from the highest quality paints by our precision color match system. It exactly matches your factory color from our library of more than 300,000 OEM colors. Combine that accuracy with our industry leading primers and clear coat and you have the easiest to use, most professional looking touchup paint on the market.

**AutomotiveTouchup.com
888-710-5192**

MOON TIMES

Powered By



SEPTEMBER 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
18 am 9:18 to 11:18 pm 9:42 to 11:42	19 am 10:06 to 12:06 pm 10:30 to 12:30	20 am — to — pm 12:06 to 2:06	21 am 12:30 to 2:30 pm 12:54 to 2:54	22 am 1:18 to 3:18 pm 1:42 to 3:42	23 am 2:06 to 4:06 pm 2:30 to 4:30	24 am 2:54 to 4:54 pm 3:18 to 5:18
25 am 3:42 to 5:42 NEW	26 am 4:30 to 6:30 pm 4:54 to 6:54	27 am 5:18 to 7:18 pm 5:42 to 7:42	28 am 6:06 to 8:06 pm 6:30 to 8:30	29 am 6:54 to 8:54 pm 7:18 to 9:18	30 am 7:42 to 9:42 pm 8:06 to 10:06	

OCTOBER 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 am 4:30 to 6:30 pm 4:54 to 6:54
2 am 5:18 to 7:18 FIRST Q	3 am 6:06 to 8:06 pm 6:30 to 8:30	4 am 6:54 to 8:54 pm 7:18 to 9:18	5 am 7:42 to 9:42 pm 8:06 to 10:06	6 am 8:30 to 10:30 pm 8:54 to 10:54	7 am 9:18 to 11:18 pm 9:42 to 11:42	8 am 10:06 to 12:06 pm 10:30 to 12:30
9 am — to — FULL	10 am 12:30 to 2:30 pm 12:54 to 2:54	11 am 1:18 to 3:18 pm 1:42 to 3:42	12 am 2:06 to 4:06 pm 2:30 to 4:30	13 am 2:54 to 4:54 pm 3:18 to 5:18	14 am 3:42 to 5:42 pm 4:06 to 6:06	15 am 4:30 to 6:30 pm 4:54 to 6:54
16 am 5:18 to 7:18 LAST Q	17 am 6:06 to 8:06 pm 6:30 to 8:30	18 am 6:54 to 8:54 pm 7:18 to 9:18	19 am 7:42 to 9:42 pm 8:06 to 10:06	20 am 8:30 to 10:30 pm 8:54 to 10:54	21 am 9:18 to 11:18 pm 9:42 to 11:42	22 am 10:06 to 12:06 pm 10:30 to 12:30
23 am 10:54 to 12:54	24 am 11:18 to 1:18 pm 11:42 to 1:42	25 am — to — NEW	26 am 12:30 to 2:30 pm 12:54 to 2:54	27 am 1:18 to 3:18 pm 1:42 to 3:42	28 am 2:06 to 4:06 pm 2:30 to 4:30	29 am 2:54 to 4:54 pm 3:18 to 5:18
30 am 3:42 to 5:42	31 am 4:30 to 6:30 pm 4:54 to 6:54					

NOVEMBER 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 am 5:18 to 7:18 FIRST Q	2 am 6:06 to 8:06 pm 6:30 to 8:30	3 am 6:54 to 8:54 pm 7:18 to 9:18	4 am 7:42 to 9:42 pm 8:06 to 10:06	5 am 8:30 to 10:30 pm 8:54 to 10:54

The moon's phases are listed as New, First Quarter (First Q), Full and Last Quarter (Last Q). Times listed represent the peak activity times for game and fish each day.

BEST
DAYS

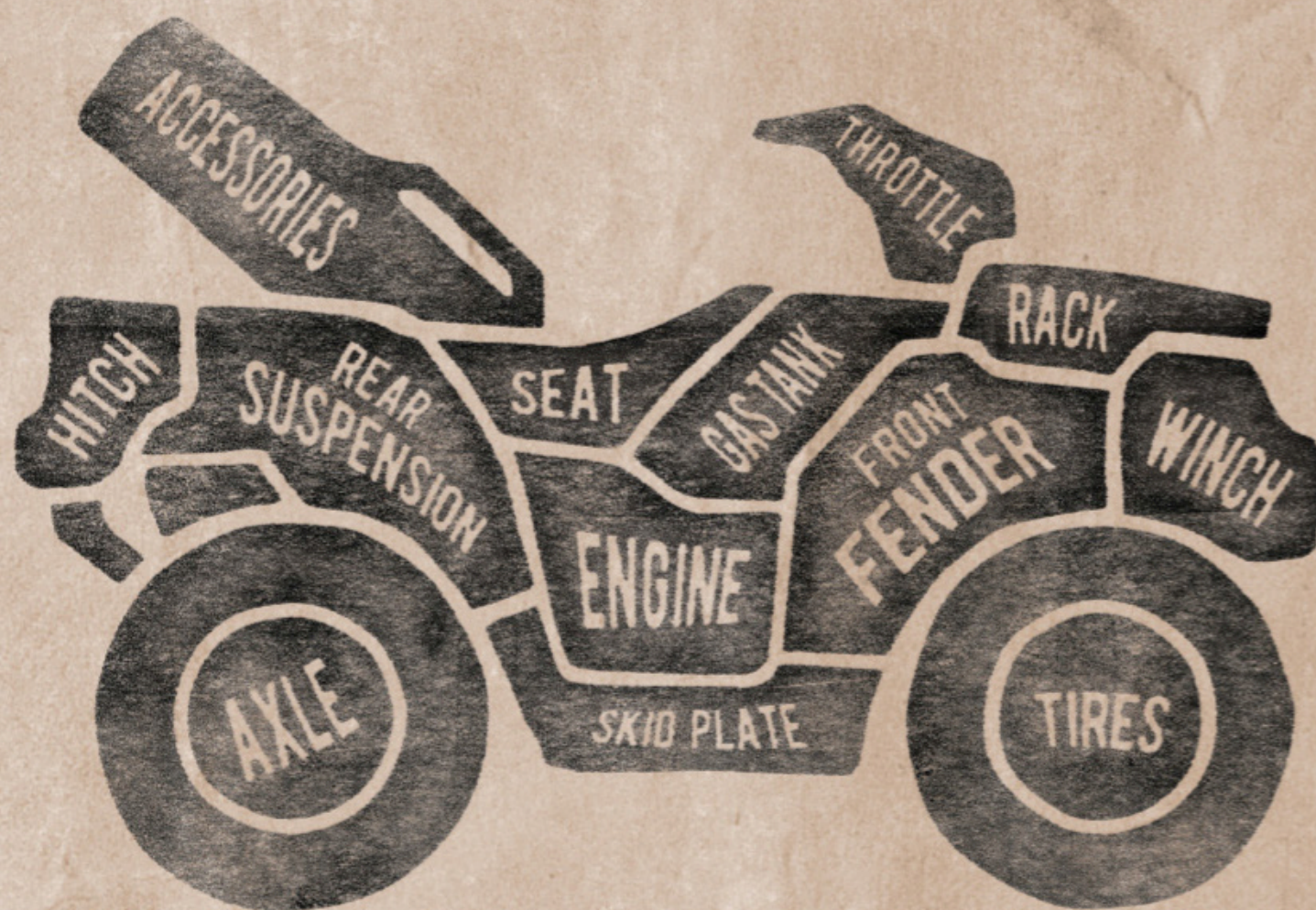
GOOD
DAYS

FAIR
DAYS

For your own 2022 Doug Hannon's Moon Clock go to moontimes.com or send \$9.95 each, plus \$3.75 shipping/handling per order, to: Moon Clock, P.O. Box 28460, Atlanta, GA 30358.

BUTCHERED YOUR ~~ATV~~?

— WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED —



KEEP YOUR PASSION FOR HUNTING ALIVE—
PROTECT YOUR ATV WITH PROGRESSIVE.
QUOTE TODAY.

TIP OF THE SPEAR

THE TYPE OF TIP ON
A BULLET MATTERS
A LOT WHEN HUNTING,
SO **CHOOSE WISELY.**

By Richard Mann

Pointy end forward. That's how I was told to load ammunition into a gun, and it remains good advice. But over the past half century, the pointy end of ammunition—the bullet end—has gotten a lot pointier. The technical term for the forward end of a bullet is “meplat.” It's derived from a French word that means the flat surface of cylinder. Few of our most modern bullets are flat on their pointy end, but the term remains in use.

Since we're discussing bullet anatomy, let's dive in all the way. At the rear of the bullet is the base, and if tapered, it's called a boattail. If it's not tapered, it's simply called a flat-base bullet.

Ahead of the base is the bearing surface. This is the section of the bullet that engages the rifling in the barrel. It represents the bullet's diameter and caliber of the rifle. Sometimes there are grooves or cannelures along the bullet's bearing surface. They are there as a crimping spot when handloading or, in some cases—as with mono-metal bullets—to reduce fouling.



Bullet tips vary widely, and all have different effects on flight, terminal performance or both.

Forward of that is the head of the bullet and ogive. This is where the bullet tapers from caliber diameter to its meplat or end. The end—tip—of the bullet is either part of the bullet's jacket, the bullet's core, or it is a separate tip that has been added.

There are many different bullet tips, but they all have one thing—and sometimes two things—in common. On target bullets, the tip helps to enhance external ballistics. On hunting bullets engineered to deform on impact, the tip can contribute to better external ballistics. However, it's primarily designed to enhance or initiate bullet upset. Bullet builders choose the best tip for the cartridge in specific applications. Understanding how these tips contribute to external and terminal ballistics can help you better select the ammunition for your hunt.

FULL METAL JACKET

The full-metal-jacket bullet does not have a separate tip. Its jacket tapers from the bearing surface to the meplat. The end/tip/meplat fully encases the bullet's core. Most FMJ bullets have a pointy tip, and they're not designed to deform on impact. In most cases, they tumble during penetration.

ROUND NOSE

The round-nose bullet is not very aerodynamic, but they remain popular because lever-action rifles that feed from a tubular magazine need them for safety purposes. The bullet's tip is part of the bullet's lead or lead-alloy core; it's just

exposed past the end of the jacket. The round-nose design also helps bullets that impact at low velocities deform.

FLAT POINT

Flat-point bullets have a very large meplat and are most often loaded for cartridges compatible with lever-action rifles. Like with the round-nose bullet, the wide meplat helps the bullet deform at lower velocities. However, some dangerous-game bullets of much more robust construction also have flat points. The wide meplat helps these non-deforming bullets—solids—create more tissue damage during penetration and helps them penetrate on a straight line.

SPIRE POINT

Like with the round-nose bullet, the core of the spire point extends past the end of the bullet's jacket. However, this exposed lead or lead-alloy core tapers to a sharper point. Up until the introduction of Nosler's Ballistic Tip, this was the most common type of hunting bullet. While some consider spire-point bullets as conventional, several premium bullets, like the Nosler Partition, have spire points. Incidentally, the Nosler Partition for the .30-30 is a round-nose bullet.

HOLLOW POINT

When shooters think of hollow-point bullets, they often think of varmint bullets. This is because the hollow-point bullet is associated with dynamic deformation, wicked wounding and limited penetration. This is, of course, exactly the kind



Turn Your **Passion** into **Action**

A minute of your time can ensure clean water,
abundant fisheries and the conservation of both.

Join us. Be heard.



The Voice of the American Angler

Preserve what you love at [KeepAmericaFishing.org](https://www.KeepAmericaFishing.org)

of bullet you need for varmints, but not all hollow-point bullets are varmint bullets. All mono-metal bullets—like the Barnes Triple Shock—that are designed to deform or expand are hollow points. With some, the hollow point is capped with a separate polymer tip.

POLYMER TIP

In 1984, Nosler revolutionized bullet design with the introduction of the Ballistic Tip, which was a conventional lead-alloy-cored hollow-point bullet with a pointy plastic tip inserted in its end. Color coded by caliber, they became very popular. Now every major bullet manufacturer uses these plastic tips to increase flight characteristics and aid with controlled bullet upset. There is even a tipped version of the Remington Core-Lokt. The addition of a polymer tip can increase ballistic coefficient and help stoutly constructed bullets deform at lower impact velocities. These colored tips are also used for branding; Nosler uses a variety of colors, Hornady uses red, Barnes uses blue, and Swift uses black.

ALUMINUM OR BRONZE TIP

The Remington Bronze Point bullet was sort of the forerunner to Nosler's Ballistic Tip. It, too, was a hollow point but with a sharp bronze tip instead of a polymer tip. Recently, with the introduction of its A-Tip bullet, Hornady now offers a match bullet with an aluminum tip. This light aluminum tip moves the bullet's center of gravity and reduces drag variability. The Bronze Point was designed for hunting and the A-Tip for target shooting.

FLEX TIP

Hornady took Nosler's idea of the polymer-tipped bullet to the next level when it introduced the LEVERevolution line of ammunition. Instead of using a hard and pointy polymer tip, Hornady used a soft—malleable—pointy tip. This allowed ammunition loaded with these bullets to fly flatter due to a higher ballistic coefficient, and they could be loaded into tubular magazines. But, just as with all tipped bullets, these were hollow points, too; the tip just filled the open cavity at the bullet's nose.

HEAT-RESISTANT TIP

Hornady also discovered that sometimes polymer tips could slightly erode over the course of their flight. This subtle shift in the size and shape of the meplat changed the bullet's ballistic coefficient on its way to the target. This made calculating drop at distance inconsistent. The Heat Shield tip that Hornady uses on the ELD-X, ELD Match and the new CX bullet is just another type of polymer tip, but one that resists heat during flight.

BEYOND THE TIP

The tip of a bullet will influence its flight characteristics, and it will also play a part in how the bullet reacts on impact with an animal. However, don't base your bullet selection on the tip alone. Core material, jacket thickness, the ogive and how the bullet is pre-stressed are also considerations. All these elements work in concert to provide specific terminal performance and trajectory, and to ensure compatibility with certain firearms. 



STOCK MINNOWS TO FEED YOUR FISH

Golden Shiners and
Fatheads shipped
overnight directly
to you.

Contact us for
Recommendations on
Pond/Lake stocking

501-676-2716
800-206-4666

www.andersonminnows.com



IT'S ALL CHEMISTRY AND FREQUENCY UNTIL SOMEONE

GETS SMASHED IN THE MOUTH.



SLOBBERKNOCKER

A scientifically superior vibrating jig that fish simply hammer harder and hold onto longer. Combining an innovative through-head design proven at Berkley® Labs to deliver more consistent vibration – even in heavy cover – with a hand-tied PowerBait®-infused silicone skirt, it sends fish into a frenzy. Comes in 3⁄8 and 1⁄2 oz. sizes, and 12 colors to match any condition, with sticky Fusion19™ hooks to help put more fish in the boat.

Berkley-Fishing.com



©2022 Pure Fishing, Inc.

YOUR FISH. OUR SCIENCE.™

2 SIZES | 12 COLORS



BAMA BREAM



BL SPECIAL



BRUISED



COLESLAW



FIRECRAW



GOLDEN SHINER



GREEN PUMPKIN



GREEN PUMPKIN
SHAD



HERRING



HOT CRAW



WHITE



WHITE CHARTREUSE

October is a time of change in the whitetail woods, and smart hunters know they must adapt to be successful.

WHAT THE LULL?

SOME WHITETAIL 'EXPERTS' ARGUE IT'S TIME FOR DOING CHORES AROUND THE HOUSE. WE SAY IT'S TIME TO BE IN THE WOODS.

By Tony Hansen

Countless pages have been written by so-called “expert” whitetail hunters who twist themselves into literary pretzels in an effort to talk you into staying home in October. Granted, October in the South is a great time for house painting if you’re so inclined. However, for the avid whitetail enthusiast, it’s also a good time to ground a big deer. As far as I’m concerned, there is no such thing as the dreaded “October lull.”

Yes, you read that right. The October lull is fake news—it doesn’t happen. Now, you don’t have to take my word for it. You can do a quick bit of Google work and pull up the results of several recent studies done by wildlife researchers.

According to many experts, whitetails limit their movement in October, so much so they are nearly impossible to hunt. My Exhibit A is a study by Mississippi State University’s Deer Ecology and Management Lab performed in 2016. Researchers placed radio collars on 55 mature whitetails to log data on their movements. The takeaway? There is not a slowdown in October movement. In fact, their study found bucks moved more as the month progressed.

So, what is the deal? Why have so many hunters, for so many years, counted mid-October as one of the least productive times to hunt? Well, I have some theories on that.

TRANSITION NOT LULL

Living in the farm country of southern Michigan, I spend plenty of time scanning ag fields as I travel. I’m looking, of course, for deer. There are certain times of the year when spotting them isn’t much of a challenge. They seem to be everywhere. Such is the case in August and September. Soybean fields are lush, green and overflowing with whitetails. Come October, those fields are still loaded with deer, but a slight change has started to take place. It’s a change borne of seasonal timing, both natural and man-made.

First, those green fields of soybeans are starting to yellow down. Simultaneously, acorns are starting to drop. This is a seismic shift in the whitetail world, and its impact cannot be underestimated. In any place I’ve ever hunted, if acorns are available they are the food source of choice. Beans, corn, alfalfa and any type of super-seed food plot blend be damned.

When deer feed more on acorns, they spend more time in the woods (seems logical). And when they spend more time in the woods, they are far less visible. Thus, hunters begin to report a dramatic reduction in the number of deer seen in the ag fields or food plots they are hunting. The deer are still there and they’re still moving. And yes, they’re still moving in daylight. They are, however, moving in different areas than they were previously.

PRESSURIZED

Hunting pressure plays an important role in October deer movement too. This pressure is one of the most overlooked aspects of the October transition period. And this impact is already well-advanced by the time most bowhunting seasons open in October.

The weeks leading up to the opening day see a steady increase in hunting-related intrusions as cameras are checked, stands are hung or fine-tuned and food plots are tidied up. It’s happening every time you go to the woods and it’s happening every time your neighbors go to the woods. Of course, once the season opens those intrusions likely increase in frequency and duration.

SAFE DE-COCKING AT AFFORDABLE PRICES



YEAH, WE JUST DID THAT.

For most hunters, we just made your crossbow obsolete. Forget the hassle of discharging your bow at the end of the hunt and damaging arrows – Wicked Ridge's **NEW** 2022 crossbows silently cock and safely de-cock with the revolutionary ACUdraw De-Cock.

Speeds over 400 feet-per-second, safe de-cocking, and **unheard-of prices**...visit a dealer and find out why it's time to retire your old crossbow.



FURY 410[™]
DE-COCK

SPEED

410 FPS

WEIGHT

7.5 POUNDS

LENGTH

29.0 INCHES



RAIDER 400[™]
DE-COCK

SPEED

400 FPS

WEIGHT

6.5 POUNDS

LENGTH

31.5 INCHES



FIND & FOLLOW



WWW.WICKEDRIDGECROSSBOWS.COM

SCAN TO
LEARN MORE



ULTIMATE 20 22 SEASON

**EVERYONE
DREAMS ABOUT
THE ULTIMATE
SEASON**

It's the ultimate celebration of America's hunting lifestyle. **Ultimate Season '22** is your complete guide to finding success in the field this fall. We'll get you geared up and ready to go by showcasing the must-have new products, plus offering a wealth of articles, tips and videos from hunting's foremost experts. Make it your best season ever — with the help of **Ultimate Season '22**.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



FRAM
Treated since 1984

Academy
SPORTS+OUTDOORS

WAY OF THE HUNTER

UX
UMBREX
PRODUCTS


BROWNING

MOULTRIE
MOBILE

Star brite



GET GEARED UP AT
ULTIMATESEASON.COM

All of this adds up to a change in deer behavior. Couple that with a dramatic shift in feeding patterns and you have the perfect storm for a completely misunderstood period of time in deer hunting.

DEALING WITH IT

So, how do you make the most of the lull-that-isn't? It's pretty simple, really. Go where the deer go. Acorns are a key piece of the mid-October puzzle, as mentioned. If you live or hunt anywhere in the Midwest, odds are very high that you're hunting an area with oaks that produce acorns. Find those trees and you'll find the deer.

Of course, finding where the deer have moved to usually isn't just about the food—it's also about the hunting pressure. This is especially true in areas that see heavy hunting pressure. You must seek out the areas that deer, particularly mature bucks, feel safe using, and those areas can and will evolve as October rolls along. Pair those safe areas with newly adopted food sources and you'll be well on your way to solving the mid-October mystery.

DIGITAL RECON

I rely heavily on cellular trail cameras. This is mostly because they save me time. I don't have to make trips to physically check my cameras, I can put them in place and allow them to deliver images to me. I also use cell cameras because many of the places I hunt are several hours away from home. Checking those cameras on a routine basis simply isn't practical. And, of course, I'm able to reduce hunting pressure by reducing the number of visits required to check the cameras.

Those cameras play a key role in solving the mid-October riddle for me. Finding those areas that are producing acorns and drawing deer is made much easier with cell cams. They'll tell me what areas deer are—and aren't—using. I also use those cameras to monitor hunter activity on the public areas I'm interested in. I won't spend much time



Any number of variables affect the way deer behave this month. Food availability and hunter pressure top that list.

trying to work around other hunters. Experience has shown me that it rarely pays dividends. The cameras allow me to waste less time in areas that are unlikely to produce.

With camera intel in hand, I can start to piece together the October puzzle. I know deer are transitioning to different food sources and that hunting pressure will move them into certain areas near those food sources. And, most importantly, I know those deer are still active and moving. If I'm not seeing them, then I know I need to keep adjusting and keep searching. 

SHUTTERSTOCK



Gregg Ritz of Hunt Masters

PINNACLE OF PRECISION



After debuting the first and best muzzleloader on the market to use the Federal Premium® Firestick™, Traditions® has upgraded the NitroFire® with our **VAPR™ TWIST BARREL TECHNOLOGY**. With a 1:24" twist rate, this allows for a faster twist which helps to stabilize bullets, expands the range of bullet options that can be used, and increases accuracy. The NitroFire® is safer, easier, and now even more accurate. Pick up the most revolutionary muzzleloader on the market today.



Traditions®
PERFORMANCE FIREARMS

**LEARN MORE ABOUT TRADITIONS® NITROFIRE® AT:
WWW.TRADITIONSFIREARMS.COM**

#FEELTHEDIFFERENCE

TRICK OUT A CARGO TRAILER FOR DEER CAMP

A cargo trailer can be converted into a stand-alone hunting camp, or used as a support vehicle for a small cabin or wall-tent camp.

HARDEN YOUR BACKCOUNTRY BASE WITH A SECURE, DRY, MOBILE STORAGE POD YOU CAN SLEEP IN.

By Gary Lewis

When a backcountry adventure calls, hunters need a secure base camp. Traditionally, canvas wall tents or nylon outfitter tents, along with cots, sleeping bags and portable kitchens have served well in these situations.

More recently, some creative adventurers have been turning to enclosed cargo trailers, which can be converted into a mobile deer camp with most of the comforts of home. These trailers are blank canvases with four walls and high ceilings, and they can be loaded with everything from bullets and beans to sleeping quarters in a self-contained unit that can be locked up and stored in the offseason.

When I started considering a cargo trailer for use as a deer-hunting base camp, I realized one of my friends had been down the road ahead of me. Joe Kiblinger, of Redmond, Ore., is a diehard backcountry hunter. Kiblinger's cargo trailer camp goes into the field for at least two weeks each year—seeing the heaviest use during spring bear hunts and November elk hunts.

SIZE IT UP

Cargo trailers come in all sizes. Popular dimensions include 5 feet by 8 feet, 6-by-12, 7-by-12 and 7-by-14. Tongue length will add about 42 inches. An enclosed 6-by-12 trailer with a single axle will cost about \$5,000, new from the dealer, depending on your location and any additional expenses related to costs of materials and availability issues due to recent supply-chain problems caused by the COVID pandemic. Interior width will be 5 feet 9 inches, while the interior height will be 6 feet 3 inches. For towing, figure an empty weight of 1,200 pounds.

Selecting a trailer is the most important part of the process. Smaller trailers are light enough to tow with the average SUV or small truck. But go too small and it won't sleep all the people in a large group. Go too big and it might not access a backcountry base camp down a narrow, rocky road.

"We've tried wall tents and nylon tents," Kiblinger says. "I've had a big toy hauler and I was using it only twice a year, so we went over to a cargo trailer."

Kiblinger started with a 7-by-14 cargo trailer and began to imagine how to maximize the space to shelter and feed two to four hunters. Depending on the size of the group, Kiblinger can put two people in bunks against the back door and two more in cots along the side wall. Other people solve the sleeping problem by putting beds under work benches.

A hunting trailer can be configured a lot of different ways, but one of the things people seem to agree on is that a main door on the right or left side of the trailer makes using the trailer more convenient. If a 4-wheeler is going to be used on the hunt, it is a good idea to have a ramp style back door. Otherwise, barn-style doors are OK.

LIVABILITY, LIGHT, POWER

Windows let in light and are cheap and easy to install. At night, the lights come on. Most cargo trailers come wired these days for LED lighting and the systems are easily tapped into to add task lighting. It is a great help to have outside lighting too, which can be mounted to

800-338-3220 | HORNADY.COM

Jim Shockey

NEW ADVENTURES AWAIT

Loaded with the advanced
CX BULLET
with Heat Shield® tip.

No hunt is too wild. No location too extreme. Trust your hunt to Outfitter® ammunition. From its watertight nickel-plated cases to its rugged CX™ bullets, it's the ammo that can keep up with Jim Shockey — wherever adventure takes him.

No matter where adventure takes you, rely on Outfitter® ammunition.



FREE DOWNLOAD
Hornady Ballistic App with 4DOF®



CALIFORNIA
COMPATIBLE



Hornady®
Accurate. Deadly. Dependable.

243 WIN | 257 WBY MAG | 6.5 CREEDMOOR | 270 WIN | 270 WSM | 7MM REM MAG | 7MM WSM | 308 WIN | 30-06 SPRG
300 WSM | 300 WIN MAG | 300 WBY MAG | 300 REM ULTRA MAG | 338 WIN MAG | 375 RUGER | 375 H&H MAG

the back of the trailer to light up the camp for skinning and cooking chores.

On a week-long trip, the deep-cycle batteries are going to run down. If a generator is going to be used, then a hole can be drilled in the floor to run the extension cord. Mount a plug strip on the wall to power a refrigerator, a small chest freezer, coffee pot, microwave and phone/radio chargers. Consider adding a solar charger from the Zamp Solar Obsidian series instead of a generator to keep batteries topped up.

On a November elk hunt, it gets pretty chilly. Kiblinger's trailer is vented for airflow, and he uses a small portable propane heater to keep it livable. Many trailers are already equipped with a rooftop vent. Consider upgrading to a Dometic FanTastic 3350 with three-speed fan, automatic dome lift and rain sensor. Carpet remnants are easy insulation to add to hold a little heat in the trailer at night.

WORKSPACE AND STORAGE

At a minimum, plan to install wall-mounted overhead cabinets. Add friction

latches and handles that can be bungee-wrapped to keep the doors from opening and spilling the contents while going down a bumpy road. Leave space for wall storage for guns and bows, backpacks and treestands.

A floor-mounted cabinet adds more storage and a workspace on top. Screw it down to the floor and to a backing board against the plywood wall.

Including a foldable work table increases versatility. It can be strapped to a wall and even put away to make room for a cot. Adding leg extensions makes the table taller, which adds some space underneath and can make skinning operations smoother.

Kiblinger added a melamine fold-down dining table that secures to the wall when not in use. Drop-down bench seats are an option, too. Kiblinger uses a large two-burner Camp Chef propane-fired stove for cooking outside, but keeps a small two-burner stove inside for making quick work of small meals.

He stores a first-aid kit, gun-cleaning tools, meat-processing equipment, towels and dishes year-round inside the trailer.

OUTSIDE

Of course, camping is all about the great outdoors. Plan to do most of the cooking and eating outside as the weather permits. Kiblinger considered adding an RV awning to the trailer, but opted instead to carry two 10-by-10 pop-up shelters he ties together with bungees. If rain or snow is in the forecast, he adds tarp walls to keep out the weather. Most of the cooking is done on the big stove with a griddle for pancakes and bacon.

When it comes time to pack up and head for home, all the gear goes inside, the door is locked and the camp is ready to roll.

Cargo trailers come in standard colors including white, black and gray. Put a wrap on a white one to make it look like a pine forest, or use camouflage detailing and turn it into a comfortable stealth hunting blind by adding custom shooting windows on both sides.

Converting a cargo trailer into a hunting camp is a great idea that can be sized up or down depending on the tow rig. And the only limit to its versatility is your own imagination. 

GET THE CLEANUP POWER OF A LANDSCAPE CREW!

Cut the cost and time of
your year-round property
care with the amazing
Cyclone Rake.

 **Cyclone
Rake**

Get Your FREE INFO KIT to learn more!
Call: 800-592-5541 or Visit: CycloneRake.com

The Cyclone Rake is shown with optional Mower Deck Adapter. Mower not included. ©2022 Woodland Power Products, Inc. • 72 Acton Street • West Haven, CT 06516

ON  HUNT

KNOW WHERE YOU STAND



TRUSTED BY MILLIONS OF DEER HUNTERS

For more information on the most comprehensive hunting maps available visit: [ONXMAPS.COM/HUNT](https://onxmaps.com/hunt)



SAVING SUMMER

AS BIG-GAME ANIMALS TRANSITION THIS MONTH TO WINTER RANGE, BIOLOGISTS ARMED WITH NEW TECHNOLOGY RECONSIDER THE VITAL VALUE OF SUMMER HABITAT.

By Andrew McKean

For at least two human generations, Western big-game managers have drilled into hunters the importance of winter range. Without south-facing slopes that amplify feeble winter sun, hardy shrubs that provide precious calories and low-elevation flats that blow clear of drifting snow, our mule deer and elk populations would never have flourished over the past decades.

Conservation of these vital winter habitats, which, coincidentally, are also prime real estate for subdivisions, gas wells and base-camp lodges, has been synonymous with conservation of our big-game herds. It's why our most valuable Western wildlife management areas are in foothills habitat.

But new research suggests that maybe our conservation priorities have missed the mark. Yes, we need to continue to make room for wintering wildlife when they are at their most vulnerable. But researchers are increasingly convinced that overwinter survival of mule deer is less dependent on intact winter range than on healthy summer range—those

high-elevation pastures and subalpine parks that, by late October in the West, are starting to get covered in snow.

The research is informed by technology that has allowed biologists to know more than ever about the life cycles of wildlife across landscapes and time, says Randy Larsen, a wildlife professor at Utah's Brigham Young University, who has pioneered the use of GPS collars, body-fat calculations and necropsy analysis.

Larsen, in a presentation at this year's Mule Deer Summit in Salt Lake City, said researchers' new ways of measuring body fat, coupled with GPS collars that track precise movement over time, provide biologists a better picture of seasonal habitat bottlenecks.

"For years we've wanted a way to determine how healthy deer are," Larsen says. "Traditionally, when you kill one you can measure fat on their rump or xiphoid fat on their throat. Downside is, they're dead. Researchers have developed a methodology to estimate total body fat on live animals. It's a game-changer because we can now estimate with about 84 percent accuracy how

healthy individual live deer are based on a scale."

In Utah, where some 5,000 mule deer have worn GPS collars in the past eight years—and where 1,500 deer are currently wearing collars—researchers are also using vaginal monitors to alert them the moment a doe births a fawn. Technicians then race to the site to find and collar the fawn.

"You put a little radio on that day-old fawn that links to mom's collar with Bluetooth," Larsen told summit attendees. "You're now tracking mom and baby. At six months old, you catch the fawn again and put a different collar on and now you're able to track the whole life cycle."

Location data, uploaded hourly to satellites, enables biologists not only to track deer movement, but mortality signals alert them when a deer dies.

"We get to a carcass quickly and we have science to determine what killed that animal," says Larsen. "Necropsy and DNA analysis is good enough that you can estimate the [mortality] rates proportionately, which are getting killed by lions or coyotes or dying of

malnutrition. We can tell where the hot spots are for highway collisions. For the first time, with all this technology—we've collected about 1,500 collars from dead deer—we know where deer live and where they migrate and how they die. That gets to the limiting factors. What is limiting a herd unit?"

HABITAT DEFICIENCIES

Larsen says body fat is a key metric not only to anticipate individual survival, but also to determine herd health.

"We see that a mom's ingesta-free body fat—her condition—is associated with the birth weight of fawns. Same with growth rate. How much weight a fawn puts on between birth and 6 months is strongly influenced by how healthy and fat mom is. The weight that fawn comes into the winter determines whether it lives through the winter. If you're not 70 pounds at 6 months, you have a less than 50 percent chance of making it through the winter. It doesn't really matter the year or winter conditions. It all has to do with getting those fawns born big, having

them grow quickly, and having them be heavy and big in December so they can make it through that first winter."

And that maternal condition is strongly related to summer habitat—mid- to higher-elevation ground that's predominately managed by federal agencies such as BLM and U.S. Forest Service. Much of that land is badly in need of habitat work, from forest thinning to riparian restoration to removal of encroaching pinon and juniper shrubs.

"In our opinion, we need to shift focus a little bit to make sure that deer enter winter in December in really good shape" Larsen says. "It doesn't matter how good the winter range is. Everything declines over winter, whether mild winters or heavy winters. But if you can start at a high point in weight and body condition, then you will make it through the winter and you'll be dropping those big fawns that have high survival."

Larsen pointed to two management units in Utah—Boulder and Monroe—that illustrate different habitat dynamics and associated deer responses.

"The Boulder is one of Utah's better elk units, but people complain about low deer numbers," he told the symposium. "We measured body fat in December 2019 and found that even after a decent precipitation year, they were below average. The next year, these were the skinniest deer in the whole state, a full 2.5 percent lower body fat than adjacent Monroe. They have similar weather patterns, so what's going on?"

Larsen concluded that, unlike Monroe, the Boulder hasn't had "any positive disturbance in my lifetime, or maybe in 100 years. You have encroached aspen communities. It doesn't matter what we do in this scenario with predators. We're swimming upstream until we fix that summer habitat issue."

Whether land managers act on the findings provided by researchers remains to be seen, but Larsen says technology is providing new and important insights.

"Utah has gone all-in on collars," he notes, before adding a hint of hyperbole. "Our goal in Utah is to have no deer uncollared." 

VIPER G2 BRONZE

PERFORMANCE IN ANY GAUGE!

Take your clays or upland adventures to a distinct new level with the striking looks and unwavering reliability of the Viper G2 Bronze. Brilliantly designed and rigorously tested for functionality with virtually any load, the Viper G2 family of semi-autos is available in 12, 16, 20, 28 and .410—each appropriately scaled for optimum balance.

TriStar

1816 Linn Street, North Kansas City, MO 64116 • 816.421.1400 TRISTARARMS.COM



FEATURES:

- Durable Cerakote finish
- High Grade Select Turkish Walnut with cut checkering and high-gloss finish.
- Includes 3 Choke Tubes (IC, M & F), choke box and wrench
- 5 Year Warranty

STALKING

**FINDING MULE DEER
IN FAR WEST TEXAS
REQUIRES A TRAINED EYE,
AND GETTING CLOSE ENOUGH
FOR A SHOT WITH A LEVER-ACTION
.45-70 TAKES SOME LUCK.**

By Adam Heggenstaller



SHUTTERSTOCK

SHADOWS



The lower halves of the rocky hills below Chinati Peak were in shadow when guide Robert Curry told me he had a place in mind that we had to check out while the light was still good. We'd been traversing those hills all afternoon, glassing for mule deer and mostly coming up empty, but now I could sense a heightened sense of excitement—almost urgency—in his voice. Robert had a hunch.

"There are a couple hills where a good buck likes to hang out, and right about now is when he shows himself," Robert explained. "I've seen him before more than once. We might be able to spot him from the road and make a stalk before dark."

By "road," Robert was referring to a rutted, boulder-strewn pathway drivable only because there weren't juniper trees growing in the middle of it. The "roads" winding through the far West Texas ranch where we were hunting stretched the definition of the word, which naturally made me appreciate them more than blacktop or concrete or any other regularly maintained surface. Getting anywhere was an adventure, although I'm sure Robert and the other guides with Backcountry Hunts didn't view the experience quite the same way, especially when daylight would soon be fading and there was a certain buck to be found.

Robert nudged the gas pedal. I grabbed the truck's door frame and tried to keep my head from hitting the ceiling more than once every 10 seconds. I'm not a cowboy or even a Texan, but I felt a little like one. A rough ride was merely part of the day's work.

MIDDAY MISSION

Smooth roads are not what hunters are seeking when they book a trip with Backcountry Hunts in Texas or

New Mexico (backcountryhunts.com). Outfitter Steve Jones offers an experience that connects a hunter to not only an animal, but also a place and a lifestyle inextricably tied to the terrain.

I had heard about his tepee camps for pronghorns. The weathered building that served as the kitchen, dining and gathering area on my mule deer hunt was just as authentic. At one time it had been a cowboy bunkhouse. Old maps of the ranch hung on the wall beside a hand-crank telephone. They weren't props. They belonged in the place as much as cook Mayrene's green chile sauce.

The dry hills and creek beds that surrounded camp seemed desolate and unforgiving, but as is often the case in places where people struggle, game thrives there. Aoudad, sheep-like critters brought in from northern Africa in the 1950s, abound in the rimrock. Carmen Mountain whitetails hide in the thickets. We had a group of javelinas in the camp

yard at night and spent a morning glassing a herd of bull elk, a heavy 6x6 and a couple 5x5s among them.

Our camp, however, was focused on mule deer. While the Rocky Mountain states have a reputation for being the home of the muley, Texas has its share. Lone Star mule deer range from the panhandle south to the Rio Grande River, and their territory stretches to the westernmost corner of the state. Of the 254 counties in Texas, 74 of them have mule deer seasons. Across this range, the general firearms season runs roughly from mid-November to mid-December; archery is earlier from the first week in October to the first week in November.

Far West Texas is vast country, and I quickly got the feeling that a hunter could spend a lot of time looking over a lot of land where the deer simply are not present. The best times for glassing are the first and last couple hours of daylight, as the deer are on the move

and the chance of catching a buck in the open is better.

Not many hunters, myself included, want to spend most of the day in camp, though. During midday, Robert and I scrutinized juniper patches and any other vegetation or terrain feature that cast a shadow where a buck could escape the sun. Scouting had shown the guide the general areas where the bucks liked to be, but finding them in the shade of a specific tree or rock outcropping was a different matter.

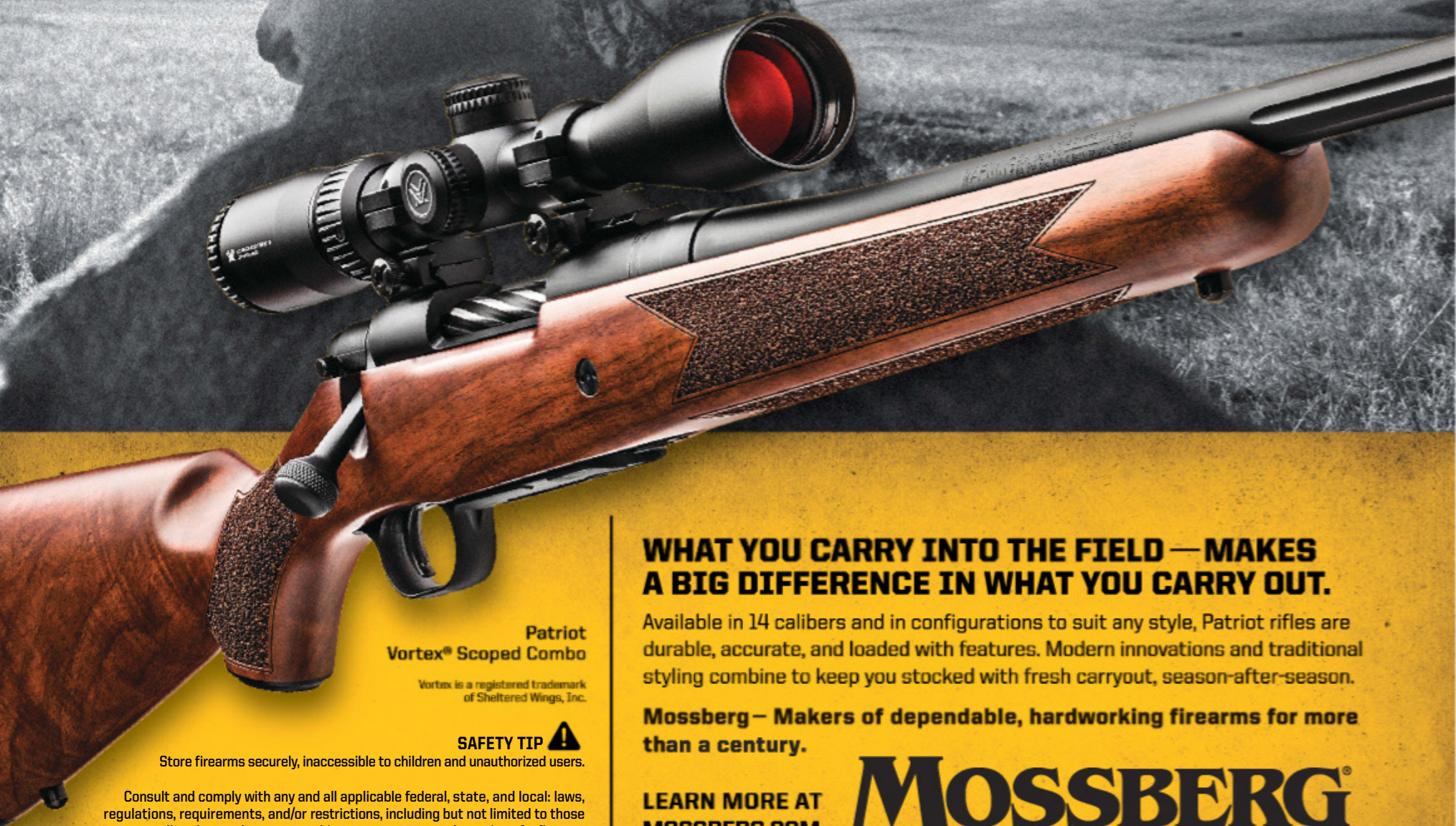
The broken terrain provided unlimited options for a buck to find a suitable bed, and only by hiking along the hills and into canyons could we adequately glass the country's myriad rolls and folds. Occasionally Robert would blow a mule deer fawn bleat call, as it could prompt an otherwise invisible deer to stand and give us a look. It worked on a couple does, but if any bucks had heard the bleat, they ignored it.

**A HUNTER
COULD SPEND
A LOT OF TIME
LOOKING OVER
A LOT OF LAND
WHERE THE
DEER SIMPLY
ARE NOT
PRESENT.**

ADAM HEGENSTALLER

MOSSBERG | PATRIOT™ RIFLES

**RIFLES
BUILT FOR
THE LONG
HAUL.**



**Patriot
Vortex® Scoped Combo**

Vortex is a registered trademark
of Sheltered Wings, Inc.

SAFETY TIP 

Store firearms securely, inaccessible to children and unauthorized users.

Consult and comply with any and all applicable federal, state, and local: laws, regulations, requirements, and/or restrictions, including but not limited to those regarding the purchase, ownership, use, transport, and carrying of a firearm.

**WHAT YOU CARRY INTO THE FIELD — MAKES
A BIG DIFFERENCE IN WHAT YOU CARRY OUT.**

Available in 14 calibers and in configurations to suit any style, Patriot rifles are durable, accurate, and loaded with features. Modern innovations and traditional styling combine to keep you stocked with fresh carryout, season-after-season.

**Mossberg — Makers of dependable, hardworking firearms for more
than a century.**

**LEARN MORE AT
MOSSBERG.COM**

MOSSBERG®
SINCE 1919



Hiking into valleys and canyons to glass was necessary to pick apart the abundant cover where mule deer bucks hole up during the day.

DIAL AND DROP

We were on our way to the third or fourth vantage point of the day when we topped a ridge and noticed a large, dark form cross the two-track in front of us. Far West Texas also has hogs, and the black boar was the second porker we had seen that afternoon. We hopped out of the truck and began a fast walk to cut off the hog, which had disappeared into a dry livestock tank.

We approached the depression carefully, staying behind a patch of junipers while we scanned the shadows of its banks. The hog, however, was gone. Assuming it had continued down the dry wash leading from the tank, we headed in that direction, pausing often to glass the junipers and the high, tan grass that covered the adjacent hills.

Just as we were about to give up hope, I spotted the boar sprinting along the far hillside, quartering away from us. Robert and I trotted to a high spot, and I placed the Marlin 1895 SBL on the shooting sticks that my guide had spread in front



IT'S THE
simple
THINGS...

...like hearing the waves lapping the side of the boat, watching the sunset as you cast your line from the pier, or reeling in your first catch of the day. Charter, deep-sea, offshore, and inshore fishing are all some of our favorite ways to reel in dinner.





MAKE THIS FALL YOUR BEST ONE EVER.

Whether you're after mule deer, whitetails, elk or small game, *Game & Fish* is teaming up with our fellow hunters at *North American Whitetail* and *Petersen's Hunting* to bring you the complete guide to finding success this fall. Ultimate Season '22, presented in partnership with Academy Sports + Outdoors, Fram and Old Trapper, will showcase great new gear and offer a wealth of tips for the field through how-to videos and in-depth articles. You'll find Ultimate Season '22 content on our websites and social media portals, as well as on Outdoor Channel and Sportsman Channel. Visit UltimateSeason.com to kick off the best time of the year.

of me. When the hog exited a patch of junipers, it paused for a moment. I held on its back and fired. There was no sign of a hit, and the hog started off at a fast walk.

"What's the range?" I asked Robert. "251 yards," he replied.

That's a pretty long shot for a .45-70, but I had good dope for the Hornady 325-grain FTX load and a Leupold scope with a CDS dial. I turned the dial to the 2.5 mark, and when the hog paused again, I pressed the trigger of the lever gun. A loud *whock* told us the bullet had found its mark, and the hog immediately dropped.

"I didn't know you could do that with a .45-70!" Robert said, offering a congratulatory handshake. "That bullet hits hard."

It's easy to fall into a bit of a daze when game is difficult to find and spotting sessions have stretched for hours

Field Dress For Success

The hunt for the perfect outdoorsman knife is over. There's only one tool you need: the Whitetail™ Hunting Knife—now **ONLY \$49!**

Our new *Whitetail™ Hunting Knife* will quickly become your go-to blade for every expedition. The Whitetail™ is a premium fixed-blade hunting knife that's perfect for skinning. With the Whitetail at hand, you'll be ready for field dressing in only seconds, and you'll never need a separate gut hook tool ever again. The Whitetail™ boasts a mighty 420 high carbon, full tang stainless steel blade, meaning the blade doesn't stop at the handle, it runs the full length of the knife. According to Gear Patrol, a full tang blade is key, saying "*A full tang lends structural strength to the knife, allowing for better leverage ...think one long steel beam versus two.*"

The comfortable handle is made from pakkawood—moisture-resistant and more durable than hardwood. If hunting is your life, then the Whitetail™ Knife was designed to make your life easier.

With our limited edition *Whitetail™ Hunting Knife* you're getting the best in 21st-century construction with a classic look inspired by legendary American pioneers. What you won't get is the trumped up price tag. We know a thing or two about the hunt—like how to seek out and capture an outstanding, collector's-quality knife that won't cut into your bank account.

This knife can be yours to use out in the field or to display as the art piece it truly is. But don't wait. A knife of this caliber typically cost hundreds. Priced at an amazing **\$49**, we can't guarantee this knife will stick around for long. So call today!

Your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed. Feel the knife in your hands, wear it on your hip, inspect the craftsmanship. If you don't feel like we cut you a fair deal, send it back within 30 days for a complete refund of the item price. But we believe that once you wrap your fingers

around the *Whitetail's* handle, you'll be ready to carve your own niche into the wild frontier.

Whitetail™ Hunting Knife ~~\$79~~*

Offer Code Price Only \$49 + S&P Save \$30

PLUS Free Stauer Compact Binoculars

1-800-333-2045

Your Insider Offer Code: WHK378-01

You must use the insider offer code to get our special price.

Stauer® 14101 Southcross Drive W., Ste 155, Dept. WHK378-01
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337 www.stauer.com

*Discount is only for customers who use the offer code versus the listed original Stauer.com price.

- 5 1/4" 420HC stainless steel blade • Full-tang design with gut hook
- Pakkawood handle with brass pins • Bonus heavy duty nylon sheath



**EXCLUSIVE
FREE**

**Stauer® 8x21
Compact
Binoculars
-a \$99 value-
with purchase of
Whitetail™ Hunting
Knife**



Not shown
actual size.

**What customers are saying
about Stauer knives...**

★★★★★

*"Good value. Great looking.
Sufficiently sharp. Overall
an "A" purchase and
I ordered three."*

— B. of Maryland



Rating of A+



Even in places that seem relatively open, cautious bucks find places to hide, and a spotting scope can be the only way to find them.

under the warm sun. I admit, I had probably grown complacent in my searching for mule deer, but taking that hog renewed my focus. Then Robert said he had a particular place in mind that we had to glass before sundown, and we had better hurry if we were going to make it in time.

FOLLOW UP

We gained some elevation during the bumpy ride and came around a curve with a series of grass-covered hills rolling below us. Robert grabbed the spotting scope and, with the shadows growing closer to the tops of the hills, immediately began glassing.

"I got him," he said, not 10 minutes later. "He's bedded in the shade toward the middle of the second hill."

I found the buck in my binocular, liked what I saw, and then traded places with Robert behind the spotter. The mule deer had high tines, a good rear fork on his right side and two brow tines. The 30X spotter revealed a bonus: a cheater point a couple inches long grew from the fork.

ADAM HEGGENSTALLER



A DIFFERENT KIND OF 7.62



SMACK STEEL WITH
THE GAUNTLET® 30
.30 CAL. AIR RIFLE

UmarexUSA.com/GA-Long-Range

UX
UMAREX
AIR GUNS

© 2022 UMAREX USA, INC.

“What do you think?” asked Robert. “I’d say that’s a pretty good buck,” I said. “One that’s just too good to pass up even on the first day of the hunt.”

“You got that right,” my guide confirmed. “Let’s go for it.”

Two dry washes and a narrow hill separated us from the deer, about 600 yards of ground we’d have to gain in order to set up for a shot. As stalks go, it was textbook. We hurried to the bottom of the first wash, caught our breath and tried to calm our hearts, and began the sneak to the top of the hill. A few juniper bushes on the horizon hid our approach, and as we crawled up behind them, the light breeze remained in our faces.

Robert carefully slid away from the edge of the juniper branches and raised his bino.

“Still bedded,” he whispered while reaching for the shooting sticks.

I took a seat behind them, partially obscured by the junipers. It was the perfect setup, and I liked the looks of the buck even more when I trained my bino on

him again. Man, he was high, and that cheater point was unique. *Enough of that*, I thought, and a couple seconds later the Marlin was resting solidly on the sticks.

“He has no idea we’re here,” said Robert. “198 yards.”

“I’m set, but I’m going to wait for him to stand,” I replied after I had dialed the scope. “No rush.”

After what seemed like 10 minutes, I was still waiting. The buck was obviously comfortable and felt secure in the lengthening shadows, but a shift in the wind or a roaming coyote or something else completely out of our control could change that in an instant.

“You still good?” asked Robert.

“Yep.”

“Tell me when you’re ready, and I’ll make him stand.”

I put the crosshair above the buck’s shoulder, cocked the hammer of the Marlin and pushed off the safety.

“Good.”

Robert blew the fawn call, and for a second there was no reaction. Then

through the scope I saw the buck’s head tip forward, and soon he was on his feet.

Everything had gone perfectly to that point ... and then I missed.

There was no time to ask why or how, and no sense in dwelling on it. I ran the lever forward, snapped it back and again settled the crosshair on the buck’s shoulder. This time when I pressed the trigger, the buck lurched and stumbled, falling just inside the patch of brush along which he had been bedded.

We approached the buck as the sky began to fade from pink to blue-gray, the sun having also departed. I admired the deer’s long tines and ran my thumb along the length of the cheater point that made him special. I was proud to have filled my tag with a great buck, but then I remembered my miss and was humbled. I still wasn’t sure why it happened, but quick follow-up shots are what lever-action rifles are made for. I’m not afraid to admit that luck might have had a little something to do with it, either. 

Minimalist Night Sights

Suppressor/ RMR Height

Fits: HK VP9 OR & Glock

Orange & Tritium Front Blacked-Out Serrated Rear

Upgrade Today!
xssights.com



Shop Sights



xssights.com | 888-744-4880 | tech@xssights.com



The Marlin 1895 SBL was handy for a spot-and-stalk hunt, and the CDS dial on the Leupold scope made the rifle an effective tool for mule deer at 200 yards.

MARLIN LEVER GUNS RETURN

Thanks to Ruger, the classic 1895 is once again in production.

Fans of lever-action rifles know that Marlin, a perennial favorite among lever-gun aficionados, has had some tough times. The good news: the brand is now on a major rebound, with Ruger having acquired the company in late 2020. The Marlin 1895 SBL I hunted with in West Texas last fall was one of the first Ruger-made Marlin rifles to be taken afield, and Ruger Public Relations Manager Paul Pluff revealed to me that the mule deer I took with the .45-70 was the first big-game animal to fall to an 1895 manufactured under the new ownership.

Ruger moved more than 100 truckloads of Marlin equipment and inventory to its production facility in Mayodan, N.C., in November 2020. Engineers conducted a



complete design and production review, focused on improving manufacturing tolerances, accuracy, performance and overall quality of the 1895. They implemented multi-layered quality-control procedures, including daily function and accuracy audits. Barrels of the Ruger-made Marlin rifles are marked with “Mayodan, N.C.” and have an “RM” serial number prefix to distinguish them from previously manufactured versions. They also feature a red and white, rather than black and white, bullseye on the bottom edge of the buttstock.

New improvements include a cold-hammer-forged barrel with a chamber that is formed with fewer operations, resulting in more precision. Ruger also revamped the thread timing on the barrel and receiver, and improved the torque process used to join the two, for greater consistency. In addition, Ruger-made Marlin 1895 rifles have a nickel-plated, spiral-fluted bolt for smoother cycling.

Engineers improved the receiver’s interface with the stock so the stock is better able to handle recoil forces. Fit and finish were enhanced, too, with the new 1895 lever guns having a slimmer fore-end. The checkering on both the fore-end and buttstock is deeper and more consistent.

Ruger-made Marlin 1895 rifles have barrels with threaded muzzles that come with a polished thread protector. The front sight is a post with a tritium and fiber-optic insert, while the Picatinny rail includes a fully adjustable ghost-ring sight.

All of these updates contribute to a thoroughly modern lever-action rifle that functions, shoots and looks better than the 1895 rifles Marlin had previously produced. And Ruger is just getting started. This spring, it announced the 16-inch-barreled Trapper version of the 1895. As you would expect (and hope), plans are being discussed for the 1894 and 336 lever guns as well.

ADAM HEGGENSTALLER (TOP)

DARING DEPENDABILITY

BACKED BY GENERATIONS OF PERFORMANCE



Adventure awaits along every road in the great outdoors. For optimal engine protection and passenger comfort on your trip, FRAM® innovates for every mile with the right oil, engine air and cabin air filters to get you there.

Check out the complete line of trusted filters at [FRAM.com](https://www.fram.com)

FRAM®

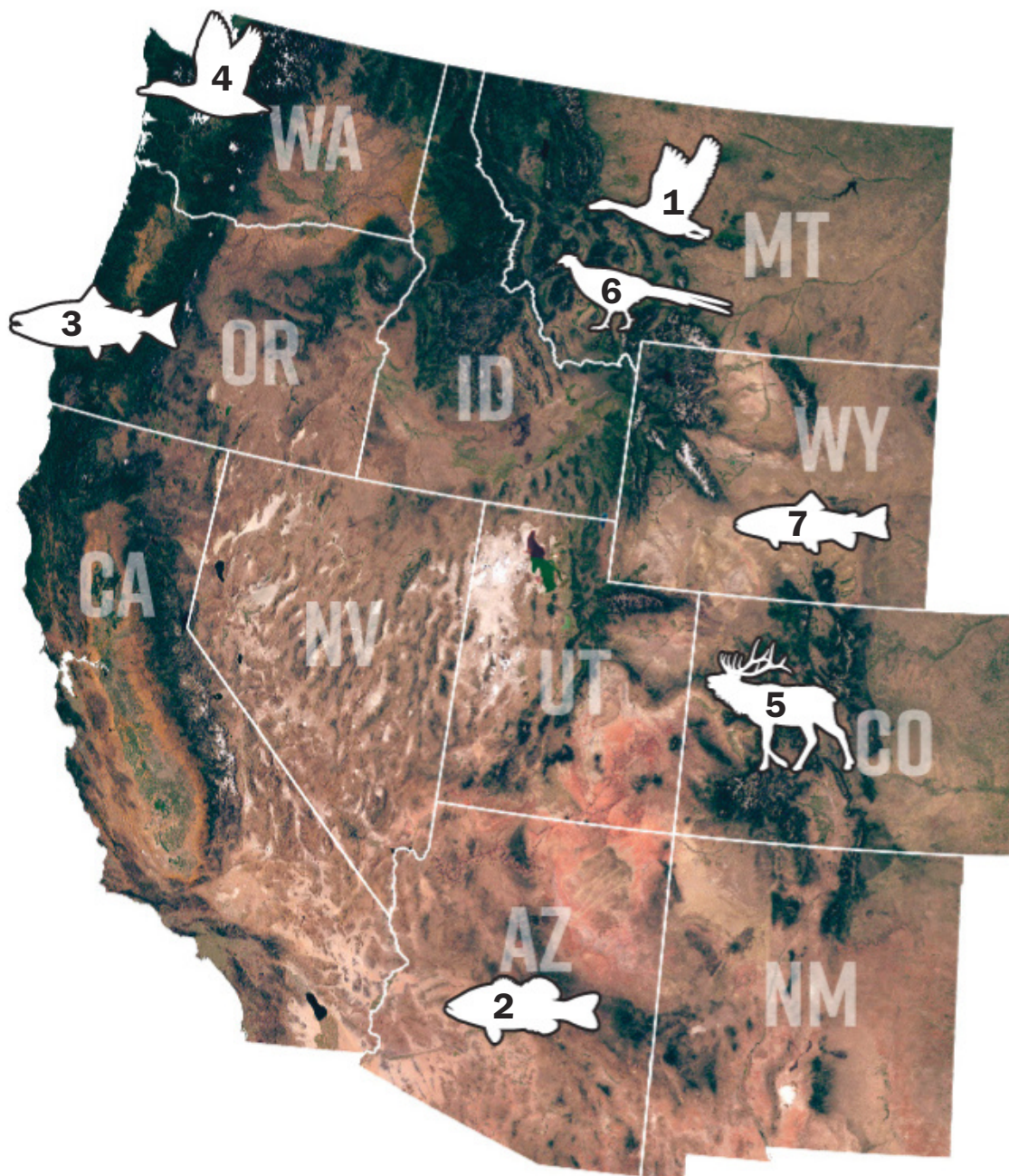
[FRAM.COM](https://www.fram.com)

Trusted since 1934

AROUND THE WEST

A SAMPLING OF THE REGION'S BEST HUNTING AND FISHING OPPORTUNITIES THIS MONTH

By Andrew McKean



October is pure magic. Sure, September has its moments, with keening bugles ripping through the high country. And we love November for its keg-necked rutting bucks. But October has the West's best mix of generous weather and bountiful opportunity in our mountains, forests, fields and waters. In addition to elk, we'll point you toward a great pheasant opener and show you where to take a Pacific Northwest sea duck. We'll also cover fishing hotspots for kype-jawed brown trout aggressive in their pre-spawn frenzy, active largemouth bass and returning chinook salmon.



TUNDRA SWANS

The biggest waterfowl of them all—tundra swans—are hutable in Utah, Idaho's Panhandle and Montana. All three states require waterfowlers to draw special permits, but only Montana's Central Flyway is undersubscribed. If you didn't draw during the summertime permit period, you can still pick up a permit over the counter at FWP offices. There's a short window for intercepting swans on their southern migration, and prairie reservoirs east of Great Falls will hold birds for a few weeks in October.



ARIZONA LARGEMOUTHS

Let's not forget the anglers this month. One of the West's hottest bites is for largemouth bass on Arizona's Bartlett Lake. Throw topwater baits, worms, shallow-running cranks and in-line spinners. When the bass bite slows, go deep and ugly for big channel cats. You need a Tonto Pass to fish here.



OREGON CHINOOK

Columbia River tributaries are hurting for chinook salmon, but it's sunnier to the south. In Oregon, Tillamook Bay, the Alsea River, the Salmon River near the California border and Siletz, Siuslaw and Yaquina bays are seeing returning 3-year-old fish. After coastal rains, look for upriver brights nosing up the Trask, Wilson and Nestucca rivers.



PUGET SOUND SEA DUCKS

While Washington's Department of Fish and Wildlife closed harlequin duck hunting due to downward-trending populations, there are still lots of sea ducks with prime (and curious) plumage to pursue on Puget Sound. Barrow's goldeneye, white-wing and surf scoter, and three species of brant move through Samish Bay south of Bellingham this month. Beautifully plumed Barrow's goldeneye show up like clockwork—or candy-seeking thespians—on Halloween night.



COLORADO GENERAL-TAG ELK

The Centennial State not only has the most elk of any Western state, it also has the most elk hunters. That calculus means you need to hunt where the hunters ain't, which is why limited-entry permits are so precious. For the rest of us, over-the-counter general-tag units are a pretty good consolation, but not every general-tag unit is worth your consideration.

For over-the-counter elk hunters, we're talking the second and third rifle seasons, which this fall are Oct. 29 to Nov. 6 and Nov. 12 to 18, respectively. And we're talking most units on the crest of the Rockies and the Western Slope. But note that about 20 Plains units have unlimited over-the-counter either-sex elk licenses for a season that extends through Jan. 31.



MONTANA PHEASANTS

Montana's ringneck season opens the second Saturday of October, but if you have kids and want to show them a lot of flushes, hunt one of the state wildlife management areas that received a dump of pen-raised pheasants. The controversial program uses prison labor to raise birds, which are released ahead of the youth upland opener Sept. 24 to 25, though there are bound to be a few escapees (birds, not prisoners). Look for them in the best cover of Canyon Ferry WMA, Freezeout Lake WMA and Isaac Homestead WMA along the Yellowstone River.



NORTH PLATTE BROWNIES

This is the month when fly-anglers trade their dainty dry flies for big, flashy streamers. Their reward is brawny brown trout that hit anything looking like a square meal. These are pre-spawn and actively spawning fish, with jutting jaws and spectacular colors of orange, apricot, mango and probably passion fruit, too. The North Platte below Pathfinder Dam is your best spot for meaty browns that could top 10 pounds. When the river drops below 500 cfs, make tracks to Gray Reef and pitch Egg-Sucking Leeches, Zonkers, Sex Dungeons (a real pattern, with rubber legs and spun deer hair) and two-toned Sculpzillas. Check in with the folks at Wyoming Anglers in Casper for the latest conditions.

Planning how to pack out an animal after a successful backcountry hunt is as important as planning the hunt itself.

HAULING MEAT

THE RIGHT GEAR, PREPARATIONS AND DECISIONS TO EMPLOY WHEN TRANSPORTING MEAT FROM THE FIELD TO YOUR FREEZER

By Andrew McKean

On paper, hard-core backcountry hunting sounds glorious. You hike into the most remote terrain in the country, mindful of every pound and ounce of your gear. You hunt and kill a hard-won trophy animal. And, once back in cell service, you bask in the social-media glow of your accomplishment.

But there's one detail missing from the common narrative of backcountry hunting success: the hard reality of getting the animal you killed from remote basin to trailhead. And that aspect of the hunt is just as gear- and labor-intensive as your efforts to reach the animal in the first place.

As a confirmed meat hunter, I've encountered this problem more times than I care to recall. I hope you are in the same meat-hauling situation as I am, because it's the best indication that you've succeeded in your hunt. But I'm

not going to sugar-coat it: Hauling meat can be a pain in the butt. And neck. And shoulders. And thighs.

For the purposes of this story, assume that you can't drive anywhere near your kill, which means you're going to have to break down your trophy into packable pieces. You'll need three essential tools for the task: a good knife, quality game bags and a pack that's capable of carrying between 50 and 70 pounds.

Packing meat is ultimately a physical task, but it's made easier by good decisions. Your first will be to either quarter or debone the animal. Quartering is quicker and less messy, but because you're packing bones along with meat, it's also more laborious. Game bags are handy in either case because they keep dirt and air off the cut portions of quarters and, for boneless meat, they provide the structure necessary to lash the loose meat to a pack while also keeping it relatively clean.

EXTERNAL VS. INTERNAL FRAME

Your hunting pack of choice will fall into one of two categories: external frame or internal frame. An advantage of the former is that among many brands, you can buy a customizable frame that will pair with any number of bags. That means you can buy a small (2,500 cubic inches) pack for day hunts or size up to a large (5,000 cubic inches) bag for multi-day expedition hunts. Many of these frame systems also have a meat shelf that enables hunters to pack meat between the frame and pack. This keeps the contents of the pack clean and positions the weight of the meat close to the back where it's easier to carry.

The advantage of internal-frame designs is their compactness and capability to load meat directly into the bag, which minimizes the need to lash it or otherwise secure it. And the best of these internal frame packs, including Stone Glacier's

Exceptionally Accurate. Extremely Precise.



Seeing beyond



Conquest® V4 Riflescope

Highly intuitive reticles, the Ballistic Stop™, combined with the External Locking Windage Turret and legendary ZEISS optics, delivers a superior system that ensures first shot accuracy – exactly where you want it.

Scan to learn more:



gargantuan Talus 6900, is they have “load shelves” that accommodate meat between the bag and the frame.

Or you might opt for a skeletonized meat-hauler. These are essentially frame packs without any bag. They have only a meat shelf that serves as a floor for your meat, which is then anchored onto the pack with a series of compression straps.

HOW TO FIT A PACK

Any of these designs should be capable of toting more than 50 pounds of meat and have a capacity north of 3,500 cubic inches. If you’re planning to pack elk-sized animals, a 5,000-cubic-inch pack is probably a better choice. Regardless of capacity, you need to buy a model that’s sized to your torso, and then spend some time fitting it to your specific dimensions. Even better, buy a model that has an adjustable yoke—most models from Mystery Ranch, Stone Glacier and Kifaru have this custom-fitting feature. Others, like those from Kuju and Sitka, have various sizes of yokes, shoulder straps and waist belts that allow users to get a close-to-custom fit.

Fitting a pack is best done with a partner who can size up how it rides on you and help make the incremental adjustments required to find a perfect

fit. The first step is to put about 25 pounds of weight—a bag of rice or dog food will work—into the bag or on the meat shelf, then loosen all the straps, including the waist, shoulder and load-lifting straps. Next, slide into the shoulder straps and, while they’re still loose, make sure the lumbar pad fits snugly into the small of your back. Most lumbar pads are adjustable; move it so that the weight of the pack catches you about at the very top of your butt.

Next, buckle the hip belt and tighten the straps enough that you feel where the belt meets your hips. The waist belt should ride just above your hips on what’s called the iliac crest. Don’t over-tighten the waist belt at this point. Instead, tighten the shoulder straps and feel where the yoke of the pack meets your back. Ideally, the cushioned shoulder pad and yoke body should hit the top of your shoulder blade. If it’s too low, raise the yoke (assuming your pack has an adjustable yoke). If it’s too high, lower the yoke. This is probably the most critical part of the fit. We’ve all seen friends whose packs have shoulder straps so high you could pass a cantaloupe between the top of the strap and the shoulder. With an ideal fit, the top of the pack’s shoulder strap conforms to the top of the user’s shoulder.

Finally, adjust the chest strap, pull the lifter straps tight and then tighten the waist strap so it’s snug without being painfully tight. You now have a pack that will move with your anatomy and keep heavy loads close to your body, but also put downward pressure on the larger bones: your hips first and your shoulders second. Make sure the pack doesn’t move excessively when you load more weight into it. One of the most uncomfortable parts of packing meat in a poorly fitted pack is all the needless motion of the load. Ideally, it should move only when you move.



Quality game bags protect your hard-earned game meat from dirt and insects on the long haul back to the truck.

A load shelf that supports meat between the bag and the wearer’s back is a key feature on some internal-frame packs.



LAYER THE LOAD

Let’s say you shot a high-country mule deer and you’re packing out the boned-out meat in one trip. Between the cape, head, meat and your lightweight gear, you should expect an 80- to 90-pound pack. That’s a lot of weight to carry, but it’s not impossible as long as you load it correctly.

Start with the biggest game bags, probably full of rump roasts and backstraps—or the rear quarters—at the bottom of your pack’s bag or lowest on the meat shelf. Next, add a bag of trim, then your heavier hunting gear. You want to make sure the heaviest portion of your load is closest to the small of your back, and the lighter, less dense payload—the cape, sleeping bag and outerwear—are toward the top.

Next, you want to employ all the lashing and compression straps that your pack provides, plus a few extra compression straps that I encourage you to carry, to secure the load so that it doesn’t toggle from side to side as you walk. There’s nothing worse than a load that moves of its own accord, just as there’s nothing more comforting than a heavy load that’s securely lashed.

The upshot of any successful back-country hunt is that it’s going to be painful work to get out all the meat. But there’s no better testament to the quality of the hunt than to savor a roast or steak from an animal you hunted hard and then hauled out honestly. **Gf**

A person wearing military-style camouflage pants and a tan tactical vest is shown from the waist down. They are holding a rifle with a camouflage-patterned stock. Binoculars are visible in a pouch on the vest. The background is a blurred outdoor scene with pine trees.

THE ORIGINAL STORYTELLER

EVERY SHOT HAS A STORY,
AND THE BEST STORIES
START WITH SAVAGE.

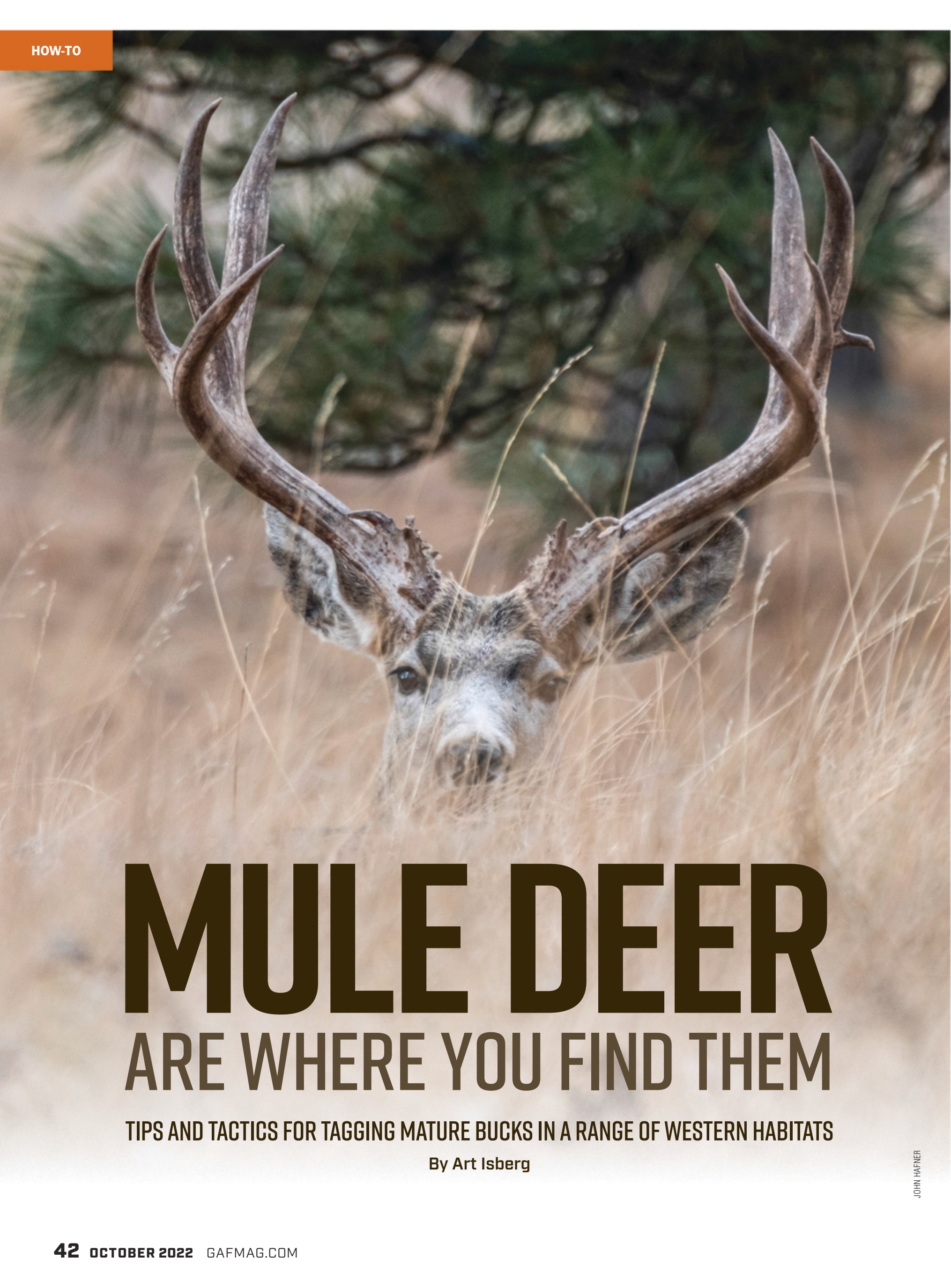
ACCURATE / DRIVEN / TRUSTED



AMERICAN STRONG



SAVAGEARMS.COM



MULE DEER

ARE WHERE YOU FIND THEM

TIPS AND TACTICS FOR TAGGING MATURE BUCKS IN A RANGE OF WESTERN HABITATS

By Art Isberg

JOHN HAFNER

When hunting mule deer in the high country, climb as high as possible and search for isolated pockets of heavy cover.



When Roy Jessie opened the trunk of the old, four-door Chevy, lifting out a silver, worn .38-40 Winchester lever gun, I was wide-eyed in awe. Roy had promised he'd borrow a gun for me on this, my very first buck hunt. Up until that moment, I had no idea what it might be. I handled the heavy rifle, imagining its great power and long, deadly reach. No 13-year-old kid could have swelled more with pride.

Since that memorable buck hunt in the late 1940s, I've hunted mule deer across the American West in dozens of places under vastly differing conditions of weather, terrain, cover and elevation. One thing that has always struck me about the big deer is how well they adapt to so many different habitats. As you might expect, the tactics for hunting them in the three most common types of country they inhabit—high country, mesa lands and high deserts—are as distinctly different as the terrain.

HIGH COUNTRY

Mountain country and the elevation that goes with it is always spectacular. Snow-capped peaks, lush green meadows and creeks and streams dancing down aspen-lined canyons all reinforce this image. Yet, mile for mile, the high country often holds only a very limited number of mule deer. Those it does hold are widely scattered—especially big bucks. In this top country, mature bucks are almost exclusively loners. This is especially true during the generally short deer seasons most mountain states have today. That means you have very limited time and must concentrate your efforts only in those places solitary bucks are most likely to be.

Once the rifle fire of opening morning echoes across the hills, these veterans head for heavy cover and stay there. I always make it a rule to get into the highest part of the area I want to hunt and look for special places of isolated, dense cover. These include

narrow timber leads, oak brush flats, little basins ringed by jack pines and ridges or saddles with quick crossovers into other canyons. Wary bucks pick places like this because they provide cover and a good view of lower country, have feed nearby and feature quick escape routes they can use if threatened.

One very productive way to hunt here is by using a simple two-man drive. Before starting, get the wind in your face or off either shoulder. Having the sun at your back or at angles from behind is also a plus. Your partner should position himself low and still, waiting in cover near where your drive will end. As you move forward, whether antlers break out on either side or at the far end, one of you is going to get a fast shot out in the open. Pay attention until the very end of the drive, though. Bucks are known to sneak out ahead of the driver at the last minute. The trick here is only to pick spots two people can cover completely.

Another good thing about high-country hunting is the potential to catch an early snow. It doesn't need to be a foot deep; two inches of the white stuff are enough to up your odds of choosing a spot bucks are currently using. Fresh, single tracks and brightly colored deer berries are solid indicators you're in the right spot. An overnight snowfall means any tracks you find will be only hours old and can be worth moving on. Once full daylight comes, mule deer tend to stay put and not show themselves. You can catch up to them because of this.

MESA LANDS

Below timbered peaks and winter's deep, killing snow, yet above vast Western deserts, lies a cliffy middle ground made up of mesas, table lands and rimrock country. Low, tough junipers and cedars take the place of tall timber and white-barked aspens. Cliff rose, sagebrush and oak brush grow as high as a house and as thick as dog hair, giving mule deer endless cover, feed and protection regardless of winter's icy grip. This unique land is also where traditional mule deer hunting gets stood on its head, since you'll be hunting "cover deer" much like you would whitetails or blacktails. Here, timing is the real key.

Cautious, solitary bucks have a habit of moving downhill to feed and water during the night. These old veterans have seen many seasons come and go, learning how to keep their buckskin on. They hide out during daylight hours when most hunters aren't aware how close they can be. However, there is a real window of opportunity to ambush them in transitional zones. This special time comes just as dawn begins to light the land enough for clear shooting. Depending on hunting pressure, it can last from gray dawn until the first rays of sun fire up the rimrock tops.

The big boys exit lower flats where they've fed and watered at night, starting their climb back up into the safety of bedding grounds for the day. Up there, in cover, they can keep an eye on all that lies below and catch the scent of intruders coming up on rising air. How does this ambush work exactly? You need to position yourself early, above these bedding areas, and let the bucks come to you.

Bucks like to settle in cover and shade right where steep slopes come

In mesa lands, look for mule deer at first light as they cautiously exit lower flats, where they feed and water at night before heading to the safety of elevated bedding grounds.



JOHN HAFNER



BenelliUSA.com

DOMINATE THE MOMENT



LUPO BOLT-ACTION RIFLE

Sub MOA accuracy, advanced ergonomics and recoil-reducing comfort are engineered into this innovative chassis-style rifle. Now, with the addition of the industry-leading BE.S.T. treatment, it is unmatched when it comes to rust, corrosion and abrasions in the field. To find out more, visit **Benelli USA.com**.

 **Benelli®**

up against vertical mesas or cliff tops. They also favor brushy shelves or long points above lower country. Chopped-up ground at canyon heads and cliffy amphitheaters, or along saddles that run out over canyons, are other spots I've used as ambush points. The rifle hunter who positions himself above places like this has all the aces up his sleeve. You are down, still and not moving. That makes you impossible to see. Deer are moving, and that movement is easy to see even at long distances. You have the elevation advantage and cannot be winded. Positioned like this, you have the time to set up for a single, accurate shot either at modest range or farther out.

Another worthwhile strategy for mesa lands comes the last 3 or 4 days of the season. By this time, most hunters, successful or not, have headed for home. The land is quiet again and bucks certainly sense this, too. They begin going back to more normal routines and timetables. By positioning yourself in the bottoms, where bucks will come down to feed and water at day's end, you can ambush deer coming out into the open. I always look for little hidden flats, basins and box canyons or small side canyons that empty out into larger flats. Get a bit of

elevation so you have a good view of the area but are still within shooting range of these watch grounds. This is a waiting game that can produce spectacular results if you have the patience and savvy to carry it out.

HIGH DESERTS

Below mesa lands, running west from the knee of the Rockies nearly 700 miles to the eastern Sierra Nevada, south to the Mexican border and north into southern Idaho, Montana and Wyoming, lies the Great Basin Desert. This vast and arid land is made up largely of rolling hills and flats festooned with low cactus, sagebrush, bitterbrush and grama grass. Rocky hills and sudden mountain ranges erupt off the desert floor to run a few miles before diving back down. Many wide canyons hold no timber or lush meadows, but instead feature boulder-strewn slopes with rocky monoliths the size of cars. Mule deer are scattered through this thorny land, and although they are widespread, often in small numbers, the high desert can and has produced some tremendous heads.

Big, rocky canyons are a perfect example. Trying to still-hunt through broken ground is generally difficult. You either

cannot see deer go out in front of you through tall boulders, or you run the risk of being winded before you get close. A better approach is spot-and-stalk—getting elevation up along the rims and going to work with binoculars. You will do more hunting than you would afoot.

Always sweep an area with your unaided eyes first. If you don't see deer right off, pick out those places where the big glass will do the most good. Any small bit of brush on open hillsides, the shaded side of large boulders and terraced slopes and benches, especially north-slope areas out of the sun, are solid choices. Another key to productive glassing is to choose the top third of canyon country to concentrate on first. Bucks like this elevation since they can watch over lower slopes and canyons, plus catch the scent of trouble on rising air. If danger shows up, they can slip away over the rims through low saddles and ridges into another big canyon without being seen.

If you do glass a buck worth going after, you have time to work out a careful approach out of sight and with the wind in your face as you move within rifle range. An undisturbed buck is likely to remain where he feels safe. If it takes half an hour to move in close, that generally makes no difference. Time is on your side.

A second area to hunt these Great Basin bucks in is those remote, north/south-running desert mountains mentioned earlier. An exciting way to hunt these isolated ranges is to get in early in the morning at first light and glass the lower deer trails coming up. The open country makes it easy to see anything on the move, even at long distances. With elevation, you can move quickly to intercept deer not in your canyon. Desert bucks like to bed in shady pockets near the tops, especially in quaking aspen stands. They do the bulk of their traveling very early in the day or at last light. If they hear rifle fire or feel the sting of rock shards from an errant shot, they move quickly down into steep canyons to hole up where they won't be molested. Later in season, these are the places to hunt for them.

The rifleman who wraps his deer tag around the antler of one of these desert bucks has something to be rightly proud of. He's taken a great big-game animal on its own terms, in its own country. That's the kind of satisfaction that can stay with a man for a lifetime. **64**



High deserts offer mule deer a wide variety of habitats in which to grow old. Here, spot-and-stalk tactics are especially effective.

FEDERAL PREMIUM®

KNOCK 'EM DEAD

SOFTER THAN STEEL AND TUNGSTEN

22 PERCENT DENSER THAN STEEL

FEATURING

HEVI BISMUTH



**MORE ENERGY.
HIGHER PELLET COUNTS.
DENSER THAN STEEL.**

Stop compromising. Hit birds with the confidence and power of 9.6 g/cc density HEVI-Bismuth™ pellets.

Launched by the Federal Premium® FLITECONTROL FLEX® wad, they pattern and connect like lead, providing more killing power at longer ranges in both modern and classic shotguns. Alloyed and cast in the USA.



RETURN TO THE BURN

AFTER TWO YEARS OF LAND CLOSURES DUE TO WILDFIRES,
THIS SEASON COULD BE PRIME FOR OREGON
BLACKTAIL HUNTERS.

By Scott Haugen



SCOTT HAUGEN



Wildfires have wreaked havoc across the West in recent years, but those lands and the animals that live there can rebound quickly.

Due to a COVID outbreak in a remote Alaskan village where I was to be hunting and fishing for three weeks, I returned home early. I'm glad I did.

Ten hours after landing in Eugene, Ore., a massive wildfire broke out near our home in the McKenzie River Valley. We were evacuated for 11 days. While our home survived, some of our friends and relatives lost everything. It was one of the most horrific experiences I've ever encountered.

That was in early September 2020, and we weren't alone. Wildfires raged from California to Washington and into Canada. They spanned from the Coast Range, through the Cascades and into the high-desert mountains. Forest fires devastated much blacktail deer habitat throughout their range.

For many of us, the public-access blacktail woods are scheduled to re-open this fall for the first time in two seasons. If your area was engulfed in flames then, don't despair. Forest fires can be a good thing for blacktail hunters.

BENEFITS OF BURNS

Many public lands were closed while wildfire cleanup efforts took place. Month after month, hundreds of logging trucks loaded with scorched Douglas fir trees drove past my house. I could only imagine what my hunting areas looked like.

A year ago, I flew over nearly 100,000 acres of my favorite blacktail hunting spots that were scorched by the fire. From the air it appeared lifeless. But stands of timber and wooded draws still stood in spots, hopefully attracting wildlife that had fled.

I drove into the fringes of some burned areas and was amazed by the amount of new growth. Grasses flourished in many places not hit with intense heat, as did clover and herbaceous plants. Perennials also popped up in many draws and along hillsides.

Where intensely hot fire prevailed, soil could have been heated to the point that its structure was changed, making it porous and less capable of holding water. Plant life can take years to return to severely damaged soil. In low-intensity burned areas, however, humus layers might have retained enough nutrients for plants to grow. This is where hunting efforts should be focused—where plant

life exists and has greened-up with fall rains. Hunting forested edges of burns is also wise.

Burns not only provide food, but, eventually, cover. Fireweed is prime blacktail cover, and deer often bed down for the day right in the middle of it. If fresh tracks and droppings are found on the edges of regenerating thickets of fireweed and blackberry patches, spend time glassing them from an opposing ridge.

Charcoal from fires not only enhances the nitrogen uptake of plants, expediting their growth, but along with ash offers a great opportunity for deer to delouse themselves. Walk the edges of burns that adjoin timber and brush to see where deer have been bedding and rolling. If such sign exists and cover is near, blacktails won't be far. Rarely will blacktails venture into a stand of burned trees or jumbled logs where grass and cover have yet to take root, so don't waste time there.



Look for deer sign, including rubs and scrapes, in the living trees and brush that border burned areas recovering from fires.



Enjoying the comfort of a campfire and a hot meal cooked over glowing coals are not worth the risk of starting a wildfire.

BE FIRE AWARE

Extra precautions are required when hunting in dry conditions.

No hunter wants to be the cause of the next blaze. If it's dry, apply common sense when in the woods. Avoid cooking over an open flame, including butane stoves. Leave the fire sources at home and bring a cold lunch. Even if camping, do not build a fire or cook over an open flame if conditions are dry.

Avoid parking your truck in tall, dry grass, as stopping and starting the engine could cause a spark and start a fire. When driving and scouting new areas, don't pull over and let the truck idle in dry grass or sawdust piles. Avoid driving remote logging roads with dry grass in the middle.

Don't run chainsaws to get firewood until later in the year, and carry a shovel, pick and at least 5 gallons of water. Should you start a fire or run across one, you'll want to have the ability to douse it quickly.

Pay attention to all public land and timber company fire restrictions and prevention tips. If you see what appears to be a fire or suspicious acts, report them. Every second is precious when it comes to wildfires.

EARLY-SEASON HUNTS

Don't think you're going to drive up to a burn and find a blacktail standing in the middle of it. Instead, approach burns carefully and quietly.

Park the truck at a distance and silently walk toward the burn. As you approach, glass the edge of the burn that's bordered by live trees and brush. With each step forward, glass new land as it appears. It might take 30 minutes to glass it all, but the chance of locating deer is much higher versus walking up to the edge and spooking them or forcing them to hunker down where you can't see them.

If the burn you're hunting is greenening up and offers food and cover, walk the edges and look for beds, tracks and droppings. If you see sign but no deer, they're likely using it at night. There are two ways to hunt this.

First, be in position a couple hours before dark and glass the wooded edges of the burn to see where deer are entering it from. Keep the wind in your favor and minimize noise, as blacktails are edgy when entering the open.

Second, hunt the burn in the morning by getting ahead of the deer. Find where trails enter cover from a burn, and get into that cover well before daylight, then hunt it from the inside out. This is especially effective on the first stormy days of the season, when deer take longer to

SCOTT HAUGEN (ABOVE); SHUTTERSTOCK (BELOW)



10-POINT BUCK

MEN'S CAMO HOODIE

**10-POINT BUCK
EMBLAZONED ON THE BACK
FEATURES AL AGNEW'S
ART IN A CUSTOM
CAMOUFLAGE DESIGN**



**A CUSTOM APPAREL DESIGN
FROM THE BRADFORD EXCHANGE**

GET READY FOR YOUR NEXT WILDERNESS ADVENTURE

A one-on-one encounter with the regal woodland king known as the American Whitetail is an experience that avid sportsmen never forget. Now, you can wrap yourself in that wilderness adventure wherever you go with our **“10-Point Buck” Men’s Camo Hoodie**, featuring the work of acclaimed wildlife artist Al Agnew. Crafted in a black cotton-blend knit, our hoodie features a custom camo-print created from the work of Al Agnew on both the sleeves and the hood lining. A dramatic close-up portrait of a 10-point buck with the same camouflage artwork is captured on the back in appliqué, and the front of the hoodie showcases an

embroidered 10-point buck. This versatile hoodie has two front pockets, rib knit cuffs and hem, and metal toggles on the cords so it's perfect for year-round comfort. Imported.
AN EXCEPTIONAL VALUE; SATISFACTION GUARANTEED
This jacket is a superb value at \$99.95*, payable in 3 convenient installments of \$33.32 each, and backed by our 30-day guarantee. (Size XXL, add \$10.) To reserve yours, send no money now; just return the Priority Reservation. You won’t find this custom design in stores. So don’t miss out; order yours today!

Order Today at bradfordexchange.com/camodeer



©Agnew 2022. Al Agnew® is a registered trademark of The Al Agnew Collection Trust.

Connect with us!     

©2022 The Bradford Exchange
01-20391-001-BIBD

Where Passion Becomes Art

PRIORITY RESERVATION SEND NO MONEY NOW
The Bradford Exchange
9345 Milwaukee Ave, Niles, IL 60714-1393

YES. Please reserve the **“10-Point Buck” Men’s Camo Hoodie** for me in the size indicated below.

- ☐ **M (38-40)** 01-20391-011
- ☐ **XL (46-48)** 01-20391-013
- ☐ **L (42-44)** 01-20391-012
- ☐ **XXL (50-52)** 01-20391-014

*Plus a total of \$14.99 shipping and service (see bradfordexchange.com). Please allow 2-4 weeks for shipment. Reservation subject to product availability and order acceptance.

Signature		
Mrs. Mr. Ms.		
Name (Please Print Clearly)		
Address		
City	State	Zip
Email		

E44203

return to their bedding area as they feed longer. The goal is to intercept deer as they move from feeding in the burns to bedding areas in forest or brush. The goal is to get in front of deer, not chase them.

Setting trail cameras on the edges of burns can reveal a lot about when deer move. I've seen deer enter burns at 10 p.m. and head back to cover by 3 a.m.

LATE-SEASON HUNTS

About Oct. 15 in the Coast Range, and around the 20th in the Cascades, is when I believe the blacktail pre-rut peaks. This is when bucks go on the prowl to locate and even chase does, as well as to size-up bucks they might soon fight for breeding rights.

Pre-rut buck movement is largely a horizontal shift along benches and ridgelines where does bed. Glass these areas on rainy, wet days, and slowly hunt your way down them into the wind. If the wind changes, back out and return another day, as you'll never fool the nose of a blacktail.

If I had one day to hunt big bucks in the Coast Range it would be October 21. For the Cascades, it's October 31. This is when the rut appears to peak initially and wise bucks can be caught off-guard. Glassing does on the edges of burns, or in them if they're feeding, is a great starting point for locating bucks late in the season. Using a spotting scope, search from as far away as possible so as not to alert any deer. Once a buck is spotted, plan your next move.

Rattling can be effective in burns early in the morning and in the final hours of light. If it's calm, set up with a hillside or cover at your back and rattle for a couple hours or more. Rattling every three to five minutes, mixing in some grunts and bleats, can capture the attention of bucks passing through the area. I've rattled in multiple bucks over a few hours from a single spot.

If it's raining, blowing and cold, head to the edges of burns to rattle amid cover. Working nearby brush or timber, hunt into the wind. If it's wet and blowing

hard, sounds won't travel far, so give it 20 minutes at each set and move on.

Start the sequence with a light rattle in case a buck is near. Then, every two or three minutes, rattle louder. Find a long ridge you can rattle your way down, one that might take a few hours to cover. In the final days of the season, don't be afraid to rake trees, stomp the ground and break branches. Real blacktail fights are shockingly aggressive.

Be sure to wear a hunter-orange vest and hat when rattling in rifle season. Deer are color blind, and hunters need to be able to see you.

When hunting new burns, you'll likely be learning as you go. Even if it's familiar land, look for sign that reveals what's happening—or not happening. If you're seeing deer sign, stick with it. If not, move on.

As we enter blacktail season with uncertainty, know that burns can create prime habitat, or move deer into areas with favorable food and cover. As always, it's just a matter of finding them. 



The author prefers hunting during the peak of the rut, which differs in the Coast and Cascade ranges by about 10 days.

CLEAN. DRAIN. DRY.

STOP INVASIVE SPECIES

After a day out hunting, always remember to follow the Clean Drain Dry steps to prevent the spread of invasive species.



Clean all plants, mud and debris from trucks, trailers, gear and pets.



Drain all water from boats and recreational vehicles.



Dry boots/waders and all equipment for at least 5 days.



www.blm.gov



www.wildlifeever.org



www.cleandraindry.org

Learn to identify invasive species in your area. Report findings to a local fish and wildlife agency!

PRESSURE RELEASE

OVERCOME THE CROWDS AND PUNCH A BULL ELK TAG DURING THE GENERAL RIFLE SEASON.

By Bob Robb

One October many moons ago in Colorado, I thought I had it all figured out. I drove out to my hunting area—an OTC tag unit—two days before the general rifle elk season opened. There wasn't another soul in sight. I joyously set up camp and then scouted on foot both days, locating two small herds of elk.

Then, the afternoon before the opener, other hunters started arriving in droves. The dirt road leading to camp looked like an L.A. freeway during rush hour. Where did they all come from?

Most general firearms elk seasons do not open until the rut is, for all intents and purposes, over. While elk still talk on occasion, and the odd bull might bugle, pretty much all that can be heard are tumbling streams and screaming mountain jays. And other hunters. Obviously, I needed a new game plan—one completely different from hunting during bow season.

SCOUT BEFORE YOU GO

Elk are herd animals that live in small, isolated pockets in a vast sea of good-looking habitat. A large elk drainage may encompass 50 square miles, but elk might only live in a handful of places within the entire drainage. To

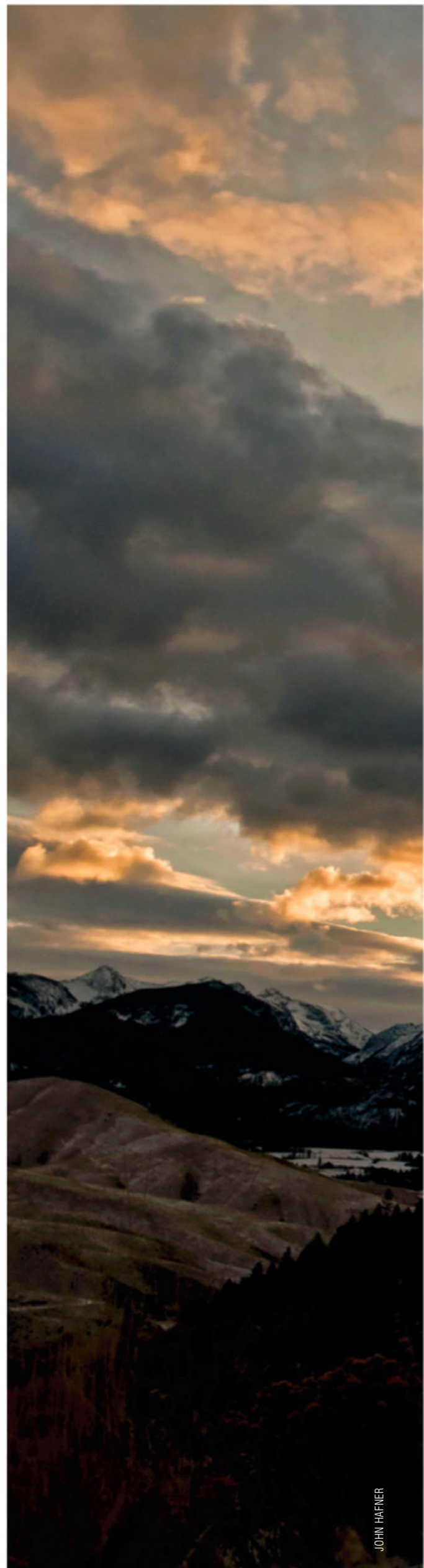
kill a bull, you have to first find one, and you can't find one unless you cover some country. This point cannot be overemphasized.

Today's hunter has two advantages we old-timers did not have back in the day—the internet and hunting apps like HuntStand and onX Hunt that can help you get the lay of the land and locate potential elk hidey holes before you ever leave home. Google Earth can give you the same area overview old-school topographic maps will. There's tons of good information now available on state game department websites, too. You can build a game plan long before your boots even hit the ground.

My plan revolves around two basic things—knowledge of elk habitats after the rut has ended, and hunter pressure.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

Our hypothetical 50-square-mile drainage might be 10 miles long and 5 miles wide. It might also encompass a lot of country between the valley floor and the tallest peaks several thousand feet higher, with lots of finger drainages branching off the main drainage. At first, the task seems impossible. How do you hunt this entire place in a week's time?



JOHN HAFNER



A single drainage can comprise dozens of square miles. The only way to find mature bulls in country like this is with good glass and lots of boot leather.

The answer is you don't. You scout on the go, splitting up the drainage into manageable sections with your hunting partners. Your first goal isn't necessarily to kill an elk, rather simply to find elk to hunt. Three or four hunters in decent physical shape, who know how to climb high and glass early and late, and are able to walk 5 to 10 miles during midday in search of elk sign, can cover the entire drainage in two or three days. This is crucial if you did not have a chance to scout before season, as most nonresident hunters do not. It's imperative you find the elk—and the other hunters.

You can also cover a lot of ground in your vehicle on backcountry roads that wind around the mountains. However, you'll find that most other hunters are basically lazy and spend all their time glassing from points easily accessible by vehicle. They might shoot a bull now and then, but the elk—many of which have already been harassed by early-season bowhunters—move away from these easy access points. They go places that the majority of hunters look at and think, "No way am I going over there! Even if I kill a bull, how will I get it back to the truck?"

POST-RUT BULL BIOLOGY

After rutting, bull elk—especially the old herd bulls—are tired and worn out. They've expended huge amounts of energy breeding and protecting their harems from interloping satellite bulls. Your scouting efforts may produce lots of elk, but they will more than likely be cows, calves and small- to medium-sized bulls. That's because herd bulls are now ready to resume their life of bachelorhood. They often find isolated pockets of deep cover where they can rest without being disturbed by anybody or anything, including other elk. This they do alone, or in small groups of other bulls.

You can find these pockets in the dark timber, among blowdowns and other hell-hole cover; on small benches notched into the sides of steep, brushy ridges; near high-mountain saddles; in thick creek and river bottoms; and among other nasty, inhospitable places. Elk will travel for food and water daily, but during rifle season they often minimize their exposure to danger by moving less. So

After the rut, herd bulls often retreat to isolated pockets of deep cover, either alone or with small groups of other bulls.



JOHN HAFNER



STILL MAKING HISTORY.



OUR HISTORY, YOUR LEGACY

The Anaconda has been fully re-designed to utilize an oversized Python action. Bulkied-up with a solid stainless steel frame for strength and durability, this double-action revolver is worthy of its pedigree. Experience the Linear Leaf Spring Action for a non-stacking, smooth-as-glass trigger pull. With recoil-absorbing Hogue® grips and adjustable, interchangeable sights, this 44 Magnum is cool and comfortable from the range to the woods.



8" ANACONDA®



6" ANACONDA®

8" Anaconda® 44 MAG (ANACONDA-SP8RTS)

6" Anaconda® 44 MAG (ANACONDA-SP6RTS)

COLT.COM



DOUBLE DUTY

Compact rangefinding binos built for elk country

A combination binocular/laser rangefinder is an excellent tool for rifle hunting, especially when you're on the move and things can happen fast. Two excellent choices on the smaller side are the **GPO RangeGuide 32** (\$1,149.99–\$1,199.99; gpo-usa.com) and the **Leica Geovid Pro** (\$2,899; leica-camera.com). Both come in 8x32 and 10x32 models and boast premium optical quality and outstanding rangefinding capabilities. The Leica features Applied Ballistics Ultralite, which provides elevation and wind corrections to 875 yards. The GPO weighs 24 1/2 ounces while the Leica weighs 30 1/2 ounces, so neither will slow you down.



GPO
RANGEGUIDE 32



LEICA
GEOVID PRO 32



Spotting elk from a distance lets hunters plan a stalk that takes advantage of terrain features and wind direction.

the most important thing I look for is timbered benches in close proximity to both food and water in an isolated location. These benches are flat spots found on otherwise steep, timbered slopes.

A quick sidenote: Reports from friends who have hunted for many years in areas of Idaho, Montana and Wyoming that are now covered up with wolves tell me that the elk in these areas have started living in the nastiest, meanest country in the region as they try and escape fang and claw. They've had to shift their hunting tactics accordingly.

STRATEGIC APPROACH

Once you've found the elk, you must plan carefully before making your move. If you spook them with your scent, careless walking and talking or poor shooting, chances are they'll move several miles and you'll have to start all over again.

When approaching the elk, make sure all parties use caution. Never underestimate an elk's eyesight, especially its ability to spot a careless hunter out in the open with the sun shining on him. Try and move in from either the same

elevation as the elk, or, ideally, a bit above them. Remember, too, that while elk like to bed in the same general area day after day, they won't necessarily bed in exactly the same place day in and day out. So, before moving in on them, it is always better to try and spot them first with your optics.

OUTSMART HUNTERS AND ELK

On my Colorado hunt, instead of giving up, I did what I love to do when there are lots of other hunters around—let them work for, not against, me.

ANYTIME, ANYWHERE

DIGITAL ACCESS NOW INCLUDED WITH YOUR PAID SUBSCRIPTION!

ENJOY DIGITAL ACCESS ON YOUR PHONE, TABLET & MORE*



SUBSCRIBE TODAY AT

WWW.GAMEANDFISHMAG.COM

CURRENT SUBSCRIBERS GO TO MYMAGNOW.COM
AND SELECT "CREATE DIGITAL ACCOUNT"

*Digital Edition is available on updated iPad/iPhone, most Android devices, and the Microsoft Store for Windows

On opening morning, I grudgingly crawled out of my sleeping bag at 2 a.m., grabbed my rifle and pack, and quietly started up the mountain in the dark. I kept a low profile, careful not to let the other camps see or hear me. It took three hours of hard climbing, but by 5:30 a.m. I was set up in a saddle 2,500 feet above the valley floor. My perch overlooked two long, deep timbered canyons, both of which had well-used elk trails coming out of the top of the timber stringers that led into my saddle. I had stumbled across this spot during my scouting, and it was obvious that here was a natural pathway for the elk to travel between one drainage and the next.

I found an old log to lie behind, over which I first set my daypack, then rested my rifle. I took a long drink of water, dug out my binoculars and got ready. An hour or so before daylight the

sounds of waking hunters traveled up the slope (it always amazes me how far sound travels in the mountains). As soon as it got gray enough to see, I spotted my first elk in small open pockets about halfway down the slope. Far below, I could soon see several orange vests working their way through the brush. I was reminded of the massed charges infantrymen made on entrenched positions during the Civil War, and, like the hunters below, how futile their efforts usually were.

During the first 30 minutes of light, I saw



Using cow calls when hunting through dark timber pockets can help mask your movements and even draw elk closer to you.



Take a long walk, or make a big climb, to get away from other elk hunters late in the season.

no fewer than 75 elk, mostly cows and calves, as they worked their way up and across the slope, with several passing through my saddle into the safety of the next drainage. Then, out of nowhere, a very nice, heavy-antlered 5x5 bull led a small procession of six elk into the saddle at a trot. The 75-yard shot was a gimme.

NOT ROCKET SCIENCE

That morning I had two choices: Beat my head against a big rock and hunt with the masses, with minuscule odds for success, or let the other hunters do the work for me, in essence becoming a large herd of beaters driving the elk right past my hide.

The key is to recognize the opportunity when it arises, and, through scouting and/or knowledge of the terrain, determine where the elk are likely to move once they're spooked and begin to escape to greener pastures. The same scenario has played itself over for me many other times in similar fashion. Whenever possible, it's advantageous to set up above the elk—and the other hunters—and to play the wind. It's always helpful if nobody sees you take your stand.

Who says you have to join the crowd? I'd rather let them do the hard work. Best of all, the meat pack was all downhill. 

JOHN HAFNER (BOTTOM); BOB ROBB (TOP)



WE LOSE, **YOU LOSE**

Join the Sportsmen's Alliance to protect hunting from animal-rights activists.

With every anti-hunting law passed, wildlife management suffers and
you lose a memory in the field.

JOIN THE SPORTSMEN'S ALLIANCE

SPORTSMENALLIANCE.ORG/MEMBERSHIP



THE SWING OF THINGS

SCALE DOWN YOUR STEELHEAD SPEY TACTICS TO
TAP INTO AN EXCITING TROUT FISHERY.

By Gary Lewis

The reel balanced nicely against the 3-weight trout spey rod in my hands, and I stripped a couple feet of line off the arbor of the reel.

First, cast short, I told myself. Don't wade in fast.

The only thing different is the rod is lighter, scaled down from steelhead to trout. The moves are the same. The water is the same.

A short cast, the length of the rod. Water swirled about my knees; the line straightened downstream.

We are not fishing for steelhead, I

reminded myself. Rainbows want sculpins this time of year. Make them chase it.

In seasons when fewer steelhead return to the river, we still want to stand in water and swing flies. It's a good opportunity to scale down for trout.

In October, the steady diet of mayflies and caddis has tapered off. To keep putting on poundage, a trout has to switch to a diet of sculpin, crawfish and minnows.

Redsides. Resident rainbows. Bull trout. Dolly Varden. Brown trout. Sea-run cutts. These are strong, worthy fish, but they require a delicate presentation. This calls for trout spey and a return to

the wet-fly swing, October caddis and long-line nymph presentations. It might call for a new way of thinking.

TROUT SPEY

Light two-handed rods rated between 1-weight and 5-weight fall within the category known as "micro-spey" or "trout spey." Spey-casting techniques apply, but with gear downsized for trout.

Yes, we are talking two-handed casting, but anglers can serve up a trout spey presentation with a single-handed rod and a special-purpose spey line.

My dad has been fishing with a spey



Two-handed spey-casting techniques, typically used when fishing for steelhead, can be an effective way to target smaller trout.

rod for years; when we put a 3-weight trout spey in his hand, he knew exactly what to do.

Dad waded in and immediately hooked a rainbow that stripped line off his reel fast. When the fish was all the way to the backing, it cart-wheeled well above the surface and threw the fly.

We were fishing the Deschutes on the Warm Springs Reservation side of the river with my friend James Flaherty and tribal members Elke and Alysia Littleleaf Kirk.

In the backs of our minds, we wondered if steelhead would strike our

scaled-down trout streamers—articulated sculpin imitations with conehead beads, Krystal Flash and strips of rabbit.

In some ways, trout spey offers a lot more variation than steelhead fishing. But for straight-up two-hand fishing, we are trying to provoke a feeding impulse and not fight-or-flight. Think sculpin patterns like Satkowski's Usual Suspect or Mason's Side Hustle Brownie. Think crawdad imitations like the Beadhead Crayfish Bugger.

Cast down and across, mend, swing, let it hang and then strip in. Take two steps down and do it again.

TO SWING OR NOT TO SWING?

Back in Elke's Suburban, we rumbled upstream to another corner where dad and James waded in while Elke and I walked up the old roadbed to prospect a tailout at the bottom of an island.

This time, instead of swinging a sculpin pattern, Elke suggested I try a fly he had tied for me that morning.

"I call it Gary's Greenie Special," he said.

With the Greenie and another bead-head nymph in tandem, I plumbed the depths with several casts. Lengthening the leader beneath the indicator, I saw

WHAT IS AVAXHOME?

AVAXHOME-

the biggest Internet portal,
providing you various content:
brand new books, trending movies,
fresh magazines, hot games,
recent software, latest music releases.

Unlimited satisfaction one low price

Cheap constant access to piping hot media

Protect your downloadings from Big brother

Safer, than torrent-trackers

18 years of seamless operation and our users' satisfaction

All languages

Brand new content

One site

AVXLIVE • ICU

AvaxHome - Your End Place

We have everything for all of your needs. Just open <https://avxlive.icu>

the float bob. When the rod came tight, the fish blasted downstream into heavy current. For a few minutes, I thought it would beat me. But, fortunately, the tippet held, and Elke slid the net under a 19-inch redside.

It was not fast fishing, by any means. In fact, it was like most late-October, November and December days on the river when, after a cold snap, it is hard to get fish to grab. But instead of targeting steelhead as we normally would, we were happy to scale down the rods, fish lighter lines and focus on feeding rainbows.

When the sun was overhead, I threw down a couple of bear hides and we sat on the shore and ate biscuit sandwiches cooked in my Dutch oven. Afterward, we drove downstream to wade into some of my favorite water.

Dad and James started in first, and when they had cast-swung-stepped their way far enough downstream, I waded in as high and as far in the fast water as I dared, again nymphing with the Greenie. Steelheading in miniature.

When the float streaked sideways, I set the hook into one of the hottest

rainbows I've hooked in a long time. Twice the 18-inch trout ran all the line out, and I fought it well into the backing before it was ready to yield to the net.

After we had rested the run, James waded back in. Wielding a 3-weight spey, he swung up a 13-inch redside on a rabbit strip sculpin imitation. It was his first fish on a spey rod.

The next fish broke off the little Greenie. I grumbled all the way back to the bank and tied on a small sculpin imitation. A steelhead rolled downstream off the end of a branch. A big trout surfaced along a seam mid-river. A fish plucked at my fly—a steelhead, I thought. I let it turn before I lifted the rod toward the bank, but the fish was gone. It would have been fun on the 3-weight spey.

WET-FLY RESURRECTION

The casts might be different, but the wet-fly moves are the same. Remember, wet-fly fishing was an art form long before dry-fly fishing. Wet flies are the least used and least understood part of the trout fisherman's arsenal in these days of chuck-and-duck tungsten.

We have lost a lot of what we knew about wet-fly fishing by not paying attention. Read the classics—Roderick Haig-Brown, Enos Bradner, Sylvester Nemes and E.M. Tod—and pick up what you can.

Add action and life by mending the line. You might have heard of the Crosfield Draw, or maybe you've done it without knowing it had a name. To do so, throw a long downstream mend that

TROUT SPEY SETUPS

Three options for any budget

The most popular two-handed trout spey rods are 3-weight and 4-weight, which roughly equate to 5-weight or 6-weight single-handers. Here are a few combos to get you into the game, starting with a rod you probably already have in your closet.

BEGINNER BARGAIN

Any medium-action 9-foot 4-weight you already own; Maxxon Talon 7-weight Fly Reel (\$80); Rio Elite Single-Handed Spey Line (Total: \$210)

SOLID COMBO

4-weight Redington 11-foot 3-inch Hydrogen Spey Rod; Behemoth Reel; Skagit shooting line; 10-foot T-8 sink tip (Total: \$480 to \$600)

DREAM RIG

3-weight Beulah G2 Platinum Trout Spey (below); Bauer RX4 Microspey Reel; Rio InTouch Skagit Trout Spey Versitip (Total: \$1,645)



Using a single-handed 4- or 5-weight rod with a specialized line is an economical way to try spey techniques.



GARY LEWIS

THE BEST FRESHWATER FISHING SHOWS EVER MADE. ONLY ON MY**OUTDOOR**TV.



20,000+ Episodes. Best-In-Class Content.

Watch the best hunting, fishing and shooting shows ever made. Exclusive, premium content added weekly. **MyOutdoorTV** is available on all your favorite devices — stream or download to watch anytime, anywhere.

MOTV
MYOUTDOORTV
MYOUTDOORTV.COM

MYOUTDOORTV. NOW EVERYWHERE.

App Store Google Play Roku amazon fire tv apple tv XBOX LG SAMSUNG

SCAN TO START
YOUR FREE TRIAL



allows the current to drag the line and speed up the fly. It works best in long, slow-moving water.

One of my favorite methods for presenting a wet fly is what we call slacklining, an old downstream method developed to a fine degree by fly-fishing guide John Judy. With the target water downstream, cast across, throw a series of upstream stack mends and allow the fly to work down and across. By stack mending, the angler can typically fish one cast for five or 10 minutes before having to re-cast.

Have you tried the Liesenring Lift? Use this one in slower-moving water. Cast, allow the fly to sink, then draw it back with a slow, high-stick lift of the rod. The soft-hackle fly should imitate an emerging insect. Start off with a Dirty Bird or Bird's Swinging October Caddis.

SKITTERING CADDIS

A lot of Western rivers have hatches of October caddis. When the big bugs start to show over the water, trout begin to target the egg-laying adults. These are big flies, up to 1 1/4 inches long, and the protein payoff is high for a big rainbow trout.

Use a variation of the Liesenring Lift when fishing dry. Another name for the move is the McKenzie Refloat. I like to use a dry like a Bird's Octoberfest Caddis, maybe two October caddis dries in tandem.

Cast across and throw a mend to allow for a drag-free float. When the line is about to drag the flies, lift them up off the surface and allow the flies to skitter upstream. Now set the flies back down. Trout sometimes chase the flies along the surface.



Spey casting allows anglers to cover lots of water when targeting October trout on big rivers.

SPEY-ROD NYMPHING?

Contrary to what the spey-casting tutor might have told us in Spey-Casting 101, the two-handed rod and the single-hand spey are good ways to present a nymph and indicator rig. The longer rod is more adept at making precise casts, and the larger diameter line allows better mends for longer drifts. In water that moves slowly, use a Thingamabobber for a strike indicator and set it at two to three times the depth of the water. Remember

to throw an upstream mend to allow the fly to sink into the feeding zone where big trout hold 12 inches off the gravel.

Again, this is October. The flies should offer a protein payoff. One approach is to tie on a Simi Seal Balance Leech. Another good bet is to lean hard into our October caddis theme with J's Mop Fly or Dean's Chain Gang Caddis.

I would recommend Gary's Greenie Special, but I managed to lose the only one ever tied. 

OCTOBER'S SWINGING FLIES

Proven fall patterns that'll get you into fish

Fish these flies on a spey rig to tempt trout on big Western rivers.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 1 Beadhead Crayfish Bugger | 7 J's Mop Fly |
| 2 Karl Malone Trout Spey | 8 Muddler Minnow |
| 3 Kure's Squirrel Micro Zonker | 9 Empie's Deadly Shiner |
| 4 Bird's Octoberfest Caddis | 10 Mason's Side Hustle Brownie |
| 5 Bird's Swinging October Caddis | 11 Mack's Smile Blade Fly (rust/orange) |
| 6 Dean's Chain Gang Caddis Tan | 12 Satkowski's Usual Suspect Olive |



ARIAN STEVENS (ABOVE); PHOTOS COURTESY RAINY'S FLIES (BELOW)

THE GAME KEEPERS OF MOSSY OAK

WE LIVE FOR THE MOMENT

On Mossy Oak Moments, we honor our hunting heritage with a full night of heart-pounding action in the field. We'll be featuring an All-American lineup of sportsmen and women that includes Will and Jimmy Primos, Brad Farris, David and Jeff Lindsey, Rick and Julie Kreuter, Ted Nugent, Pat and Nicole Reeve, Mark, Terry and Matt Drury, and Taylor Drury Land.

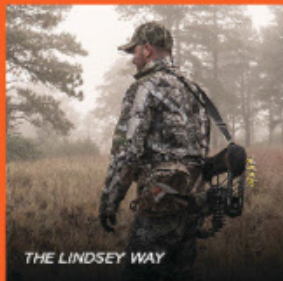
MOSSY OAK MOMENTS
TUESDAYS BEGINS 7P ET

SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

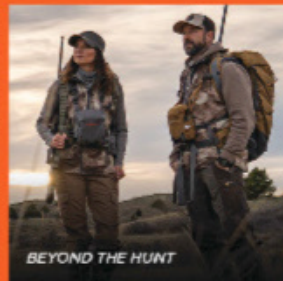

Outdoor



PRIMOS
TRUTH ABOUT HUNTING



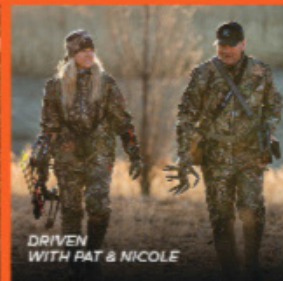
THE LINDSEY WAY



BEYOND THE HUNT



TED NUGENT
SPIRIT OF THE WILD



DRIVEN
WITH PAT & NICOLE



DRURY'S THIRTEEN



CRITICAL MASS

CHUKAR HOT SPOTS

CHASE WILD BIRDS IN THE WIDE-OPEN SPACES OF THE WEST.

By Gary Lewis



Long walks and longer views await upland hunters ready for the challenge of pursuing chukars in the rugged places where they thrive.

WINDIGO IMAGES



It's the last best public-land hunt in the West, where a hunter can walk for miles in pursuit of the Himalayan import we call the chukar.

Experienced chukar hunters are already thinking about it. You have your eyes on November, December and January because you study these birds and you know some of the best hunting for the prepared, well-informed wingshooter happens in the late season.

We've pre-scouted. We've called biologists and outfitters. We've looked at the weather charts. Harvest trends are up in some places and down in others. Without further ado, here are our top picks for the West's best chukar hunting in 2022 and early 2023.

OREGON

"Last winter was pretty mild, with no concerns toward over-winter survival," says Mikal Cline, an enthusiastic chukar hunter and Oregon's upland bird biologist.

Chukar habitat was accessible through January, and that translated to a lot of hunters going to the places they couldn't get to the season before.

Then Oregon was soaked with "a winter's worth of precipitation in April," according to Cline. Moving into early May, conditions continued cold and wet with more typical May weather.

Cline reports Harney and Malheur counties in southeast Oregon produced more birds per hunter than other parts of the state, with a better harvest than expected.

"We knew the Snake River-Baker-Brownlee area was going to produce. Overall it was a solid year," he says. "Chukar harvest picks up later in the season, and last year we had more harvest in January than in December."

One area that did not live up to its potential last year was central Oregon's Deschutes and John Day river canyons.

Oregon's biggest fire last summer was the 413,000-acre Bootleg, which burned in the Fremont-Winema National Forest. Plans are underway to reseed some areas for wildlife.

The bag limit is eight chukars or Hungarian partridge, with a possession limit of 24.



Chukars were introduced to the U.S. in the late 1800s. Aggressive stocking in the 1950s gave us the bountiful hunting we have today.

WASHINGTON

Washington's Asotin County is tops for chukar production. Chelan is number two. Yakima and Kittitas are next on the list with high numbers. Other top producers are Okanogan (also good for grouse) and Douglas counties.

Sarah Garrison, the state's small-game specialist based in Olympia, says the region experienced an overall mild winter, followed by good spring rains. Several large fires burned in eastern Washington last year, which is not necessarily bad for chukars.

"Chukar hunters can benefit from last year's fires if they can get into those places," Garrison says.

For the best access and continuous chukar habitat, look to Chelan County, from the Colockum Wildlife Area south of Wenatchee all the way to the Okanogan County border and north to Chelan Butte Wildlife Area.

Chukars can be found, too, in the breaks on the east side of the Columbia River, in Douglas County, but there is a higher percentage of private land.

The season runs from early October through the middle of January. The bag limit is six chukars and six gray partridge, with 12 of each species in possession.

IDAHO

Idaho's best chukar habitat can be found in the Clearwater, Magic Valley and Southwest regions. Starting in the Southwest region, a quick look at a map shows how some of Idaho's best chukar hunting lines up with some of Oregon's best chukar country. Chukar numbers were good in the Snake River and Owyhee areas in the 2021-2022 season, and we expect that trend to continue this fall.

Much of the Clearwater Region is only accessible by foot, boat or horseback. The breaks of the Salmon River and the Clearwater can hold a lot of birds, which are able to escape harsh winters by descending all the way to the banks of the big rivers, where temperatures can be moderate.

In the Magic Valley Region, check out canyon lands south of Boise to south of Twin Falls.

Overall, chukar numbers should be stable from west-central to east-central Idaho. The western part of the state offers the best chance for a mixed bag with Huns and quail.



CHUKAR TOWNS

Great starting points for your next Western upland hunting adventure

PAISLEY, OREGON

Trust me, when you come off Abert Rim, you're going to want a cheeseburger, and the best place in all of southeast Oregon to get one is the Pioneer Saloon and Restaurant in Paisley. Then, point the rig west to Summer Lake and The Lodge at Summer Lake. They cater to hunters and serve a great clam chowder.

THE DALLES, OREGON

Between the mouth of the Deschutes and the John Day rivers, The Dalles offers a great location with a full range of services. The best place for a chukar hunter to bend an elbow with a beer and pizza is Freebridge Brewing. For a great view of the Columbia River, check in at Celilo Inn.

CODY, WYOMING

Trade your ballcap for a Stetson—this is cowboy country. There's no shortage of places to grab a burger, but be sure to belly up to the bar at Buffalo Bill's Irma Hotel. And don't miss the Buffalo Bill Center of the West, which features five museums, including the incredible Cody Firearms Museum.

RIGGINS, IDAHO

Riggins, they say, is a drinking town with a fishing problem. After a couple of days in your chukar boots, you'll want a hot tub, and they have a good one at the Best Western Salmon Rapids Lodge (they'll even loan you a swimsuit). For dinner, there are lots of options, but the River Rock Café is a personal favorite.

CLARKSTON, WASHINGTON

Lewiston, Idaho, is on one side of the Snake River and Clarkston is on the other. The Quality Inn & Suites is my regular stop here. The best place for a burger is Roosters Waterfront, but I recommend the Attack Chicken Sandwich. You'll swear you can hear chukars across the river—unless the band is playing, then it gets loud.

WINNEMUCCA, NEVADA

With Idaho and Oregon directly to the north, Salt Lake to the east and Reno to the southwest, Winnemucca is at the crossroads of the best chukar hunting in the West. In fact, the town bills itself as the "Chukar Capital of the Country." Check out the Martin Hotel for traditional Basque fare served family-style.

FUEL FOR THE HUNT

- Naturally Smoked
- Tender and Delicious
- Great Source of Protein
- Clear View Package



WHAT'S YOUR **BEEF?**

Chukar season opens Sept. 17 and runs through Jan. 31, 2023. The daily limit is eight chukars and eight gray partridge, with a possession limit of 24 of each species.

NEVADA

Chukar are found throughout Nevada's northern mountains and as far south as Tonopah and Las Vegas. Seventy percent of the chukar harvest comes from the Western Region. Look to the hills around Winnemucca (Humboldt County) for some of the state's best hunting. Washoe, Pershing, Churchill and Storey counties can also produce high harvest and hunter success rates depending on the weather in the nesting season in May and June.

The Tamarack Fire burned 68,696 acres in Nevada and California. Combining resources from Nevada Bighorns Unlimited, Nevada Muleys, the Nevada Chukar Foundation and other partners, the Nevada Department of Wildlife is reseeded with 71,400 pounds of seed for grasses, flowers and shrubs across more than 8,000

acres of the burn in Douglas County. In the absence of reseeding, the cheatgrass comes in, which is good for chukars but bad for everything else.

Bird numbers have been trending up in Pershing County in units 041 and 042. Other bright spots include Elko County's units 066 and 068.

The season begins the second week of October. Nevada's daily bag limit is six chukars or Hungarian partridge, and the possession limit is 18 birds.

UTAH

Utah has been experiencing severe drought since 2018, which translates to limited chukar production. But chukars were made for hard times.

Utah's best chukar numbers tend to come from the Central Region. Tooele County, home of the Cedar Mountains, kicks out the most birds, but Utah and Juab counties, featuring the Sevier River, are also chukar producers.

In the Northern Region, 13 percent of the average statewide harvest comes

from Box Elder County. In the south, Millard and Sevier counties are the most productive. In the southeast, Emery and Carbon counties are the best bets.

The bag limit is five chukars with 15 in possession. Chukar season begins at the end of September and runs through mid-February.

A map of chukar release areas can be found on Utah's upland hunting resources web page (wildlife.utah.gov).

WYOMING

Last winter didn't bring a heavy snow load, and temperatures remained mild overall. Early spring brought periodic rain and snow showers to grow the grass young birds need.

The upper northwest corner of the state (Area 2) offers the best chukar hunting, including the west slope of the Bighorns in the Cody Region. Other good spots to set up base camp include Lander, Buffalo and the Powder River's South Fork.

The Green River Region is on the fringe of ideal chukar habitat according to wildlife management coordinator Sean Yancey, but year to year, huntable chukar numbers can be found near Flaming Gorge Reservoir.

Partridge season starts Sept. 15 and continues through January. The daily bag limit is five chukars or gray partridge, with 15 in possession.

COLORADO

Hard rains in May 2021 during nesting season, followed by severe drought in the summer and fall, hit upland birds hard in Colorado. But chukars are resilient and the winter of 2022 was mild.

Hit the slopes of the Colorado River and Gunnison River drainages below 6,600 feet of elevation. For walk-in hunting on private lands, visit the Walk-In Atlas page at cpw.state.co.us

Chukar season runs September through November. The daily bag limit is four, with 12 in possession.

GET OUT THERE

The best chukar hunting in the West is on public land, mostly managed by the Bureau of Land Management. It will likely never be developed or fenced off, and the roads will never be paved. Pack a map and compass, an extra box of ammo, throw in a bottle of water for the dog and start walking. 



The author took this brace of chukars from a cheatgrass slope that tumbled into a field of wild rye.



Do it Right with DR®

World's Most POWERFUL Leaf Vacuum!

★ **USA**
ENGINEERED AND BUILT

Assembled in the USA
using domestic and
foreign parts.



EASY
1-hand dumping!

Tow-Behind

- Rated #1 in vacuum power
- **NEW PRO MAX** model holds up to 450 gals.—the largest capacity in a residential leaf vac
- Folds flat for storage

Walk-Behind

- The **ONLY** powered vac that directly fills bags for curbside pickup
- Collects and mulches up to 50 lbs of leaves
- Includes onboard caddy for extra bags



DRleafvac.com

America's Original Field & Brush Mower

★ **USA**
ENGINEERED AND BUILT

Assembled in the USA
using domestic and
foreign parts.



- MOW FIELD GRASS up to 8' high
- CUT BRUSH up to 3" thick
- Engines up to 22 HP
- Decks up to 34" wide
- Power steering



PLUS ALL-NEW

Commercial-Grade XD Series
with hydrostatic drive!

DRfieldbrush.com

Make Stumps Disappear!



- Grind away stumps fast
- Tungsten carbide-tipped teeth
- Rotary head takes 360 "bites" per second
- Self-propelled available

★ **USA**
ENGINEERED AND BUILT

Assembled in the USA
using domestic and
foreign parts.



DRstumpgrinder.com

SALE!

**FREE
SHIPPING**

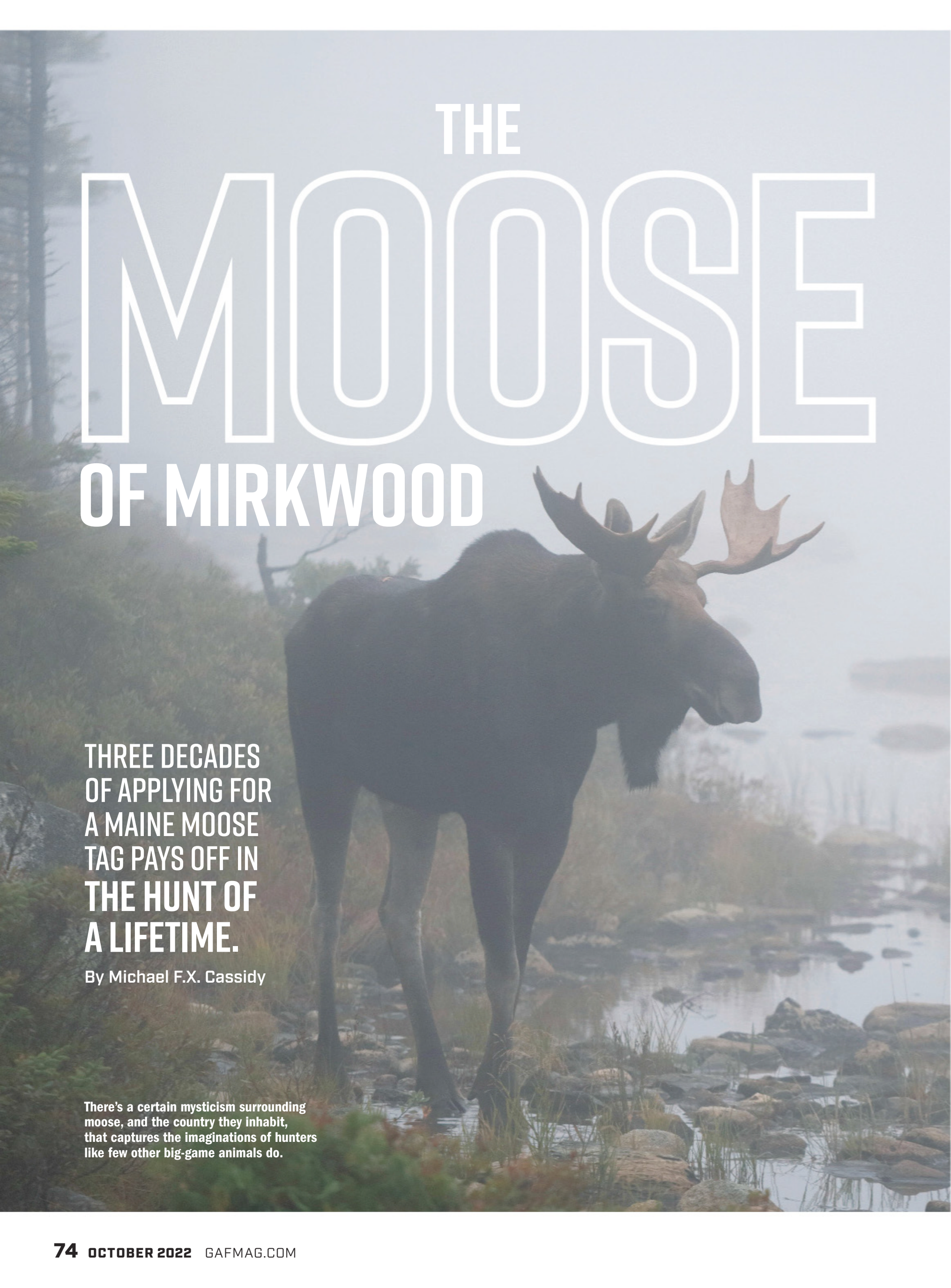
SOME LIMITATIONS APPLY

Request your **FREE PRODUCT CATALOG**
Online or Toll-Free at 888-208-5807

GoDRpower.com

DR POWER EQUIPMENT



A moose with large antlers stands in a rocky stream, surrounded by a misty forest. The moose is the central focus, facing right. The background is a soft-focus forest with tall trees and a misty atmosphere. The water in the stream is calm, reflecting the surrounding environment.

THE MOOSE OF MIRKWOOD

THREE DECADES
OF APPLYING FOR
A MAINE MOOSE
TAG PAYS OFF IN
THE HUNT OF
A LIFETIME.

By Michael F.X. Cassidy

There's a certain mysticism surrounding moose, and the country they inhabit, that captures the imaginations of hunters like few other big-game animals do.

We woke at 3 a.m. to hot black coffee and a steady, 25 mph wind howling down the junction of the St. John and Allagash rivers. After loading the truck, we headed out for an hours-long, spine-jarring ride down logging roads. As I bounced around inside the cab, I thought about how I had been waiting nearly half my life to be here, the North Maine Woods, hunting moose.

I climbed stiffly out of the truck as the thermometer rose to 28 degrees, a temperature I rarely see anymore, having moved to Florida 17 years ago. After several close calls with fully loaded logging rigs whizzing past us in the dark at high speed on the dirt road, we were happy to be out of the truck. My guide Nate Desrosier turned to me and smiled.

“If the swamp doesn’t get you, the logging trucks will,” he said.

The terrain was a tangled mess of soggy bog and tightly packed fir, beech and maple trees. Plodding through the dark, I thought of how this forest and its large inhabitants were described by Thoreau: “The moose will perhaps one day become extinct; but how naturally then, when it exists as only a fossil relic, and unseen as that, may the poet or sculptor invent a fabulous animal with similar branching and leafy horns, a sort of fucus or lichen in bone, to be the inhabitant of such a forest as this!”

“Food for thought,” I mumbled to myself, keeping my light in front of my

path. The topography was not easy to navigate in the daytime, and we were stumbling through the dark to reach far-off spots before sunrise. Carrying a gun and a backpack, I was grateful for my Streamlight headlamp, as it kept my hands free to steady myself on any available branch or tree trunk. At times it was a struggle just to stay upright.

I knew the going was tough when the photographer that had joined us to document the hunt dropped out after day one, flying home after taking eight ibuprofen tablets and assorted other painkillers, including a large glass of Woodford Reserve. I had been dreaming about the legendary Maine moose since I was a kid, but this was turning out to be one of the toughest hunts I’d ever been on.

LONG WAIT OVER

I had won the Maine moose lottery. I know it is not exactly Powerball, but for a kid from the Northeast, it was a dream come true. I first entered the Maine moose lottery 31 years ago and had been sending in my money every year, convinced I would win “in the next year or so.” After a couple decades, it kind of became a household joke: “Old dad’s going on again about the lottery permit.”

Long ago I gave up checking the list to see if I had been drawn, so I had no idea my number finally came in until lodges and guides started texting me. “Congratulations! You won!” I read those words several times but still couldn’t

believe it. I had to go online to watch the drawing and see the official read my name before it registered. I really had won, and I had been drawn for the coveted Wildlife Management District 1!

After pouring over maps of WMD 1 and realizing how far north it is, I knew local knowledge would be the key to my success. Allagash Guide Service (allagashguideservice.com) is run by Brittany and Brandon Lane, a dynamic duo who have a great lodge situated on the banks of the St. John and Allagash rivers. It turned out to be the perfect choice.

These folks are locals, and I learned my guide Nate is a state trooper when not in the woods. When hunting a new place, I always double-check the area’s rules and regulations. Although I carefully reviewed the Maine Moose Hunter’s Guide on the state’s Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife website, having a law enforcement officer for my guide gave me extra insurance that I was following all the rules.

Most guides drive around the logging roads for hours from one slash meadow to the next, hoping to see a moose in the open. Nate had other ideas, and I was very happy about that. He picked spots he knew were far from logging roads, and we would hike in, glass and call, or beat the bushes with antlers.

Nate showed me some basics of moose calling on an old birchbark call. I learned that moose language, if put into letters, would be *EERUGH*, with



The Maine North Woods is characterized by extremely dense stands of timber intersected by a labyrinth of old and new logging roads.

cows emphasizing and elongating the *EE* sound and bulls emphasizing the *UGH* sound. We hiked to our first calling spot, and Nate pulled out a small device.

“What is that?” I asked.

“The birch call is fun to play around with, but I prefer this easy-to-carry call with multiple sounds programmed in,” Nate admitted. This guy was funny and kept me laughing the whole hunt.

At the end of day three, Nate was convinced we needed to hike into a spot he had aptly named Mirkwood.

“This old slash meadow has a big swamp in the middle and is a moose honey hole for those willing to reach it,” he convincingly assured me.

“Mirkwood,” I said. “Ohhh ... okay.”

All I could think of was Gandalf’s advice to Thorin and company in J.R.R. Tolkien’s *The Hobbit*: “Don’t stray off the track—if you do, it is a thousand to one you will never find it again and never get out of Mirkwood; and then I don’t suppose I, or anyone else, will ever see you again.”

BULL IN THE BOG

We got up extra early the next morning, as we had a long way to go. My second cup of black coffee fortified me against the wind, and 28 degrees didn’t feel bad once we started moving through the forest.

Dank, massive trees and old slash meadows far off the beaten path—we set out for Mirkwood at 4:30 a.m., hiking game trails in the dark to be there before sunup. I stumbled, climbed and slid down a ridgeline that led to the darkest patch of woods I’d ever seen. After a few

MONITORING MAINE’S MOOSE

Hunters help document the effects of winter ticks.

While doing research prior to my hunt, I connected with Alaina Woods, a doctorate student at the University of Maine Wildlife Disease Genetics Lab, to assist with the lab’s Maine moose health study. The study is being led by Dr. Pauline Kamath and conducted in collaboration with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

The moose population in northern Maine has, for the last hundred years or so, been plagued with an ever-increasing number of winter ticks, also called moose ticks. Some of the animals that have been collared and tracked have had up to 90,000 ticks on them. Most adult moose can survive the infestations, though they rub so hard on trees to get rid of the ticks that they remove most of their hair and are referred to as “ghost moose.” The most devastating effects of winter ticks is seen in newborn calves, the population of which decreased by more than 80 percent in 2021 alone.

I was anxious to hear some preliminary results from the study. Nine months after the 2021 moose season, I reconnected with Alaina to learn more about her research.

MC: Why is the moose health study important?

AW: The study is important when trying to understand the calf mortality from winter ticks and the impacts of co-infection with other parasites like *Anaplasma*, a blood bacteria that can contribute to increased moose mortality.

MC: How long will the study last?

AW: This is a 3-year study that began in 2021 and will end in 2023. We are hoping, with increased sampling and participation, we can determine some concrete findings at the end of the research period.

MC: How many hunters have participated?

AW: We had an incredible response from hunters; about 250 participated in the study. A very impressive response and I was excited to see how engaged they were, how willing to participate, and many followed up with questions, photos and additional field notes about their experience. In fact, many became email pen pals with me over the course of the year. My favorite part of the study was getting to know the hunters, hear their stories and learn how deeply they care about wildlife.

MC: What are the top learnings from the study?

AW: All of the findings to date are preliminary, but there is no doubt that winter ticks are affecting the calf moose population. That is why it is critical to engage hunters, as they target older animals and could provide data related to age and sex that we don’t always get from live capture.

MC: What, if anything, will change as a result of the study?

AW: All of the data and final findings will be turned over to the state of Maine to help efforts in managing a healthy, thriving moose population moving forward.

MC: What can responsible hunters do to help?

AW: Continue to go above and beyond. Several of the participants not only became pen pals but sent in larger lung and heart samples because they noticed an anomaly in the organs. They offered additional photos, temperatures, time of day and other field notes to help round out their research contribution. It is also important to note that none of the parasites that are being researched have any known threats to humans.



The author collected blood and tissue samples from his bull for research.

For more information about Maine’s ongoing moose study, visit mefishwildlife.com/wintertick.

Call Us Today!

800.614.7506
camplejeunevictims.com



CAMP LEJEUNE
VICTIMS

YOU PROTECTED US ***Now Let Us Protect you***



**Did you live, work, or spend
30+ days prior to 1988 on the
Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune?**

**If so, EPA studies identified
toxic water contamination and
exposure. You may be eligible
for *financial compensation*
and *medical benefits*.**

Call us today to see if you meet the initial qualifications.

Certain States may consider this an attorney advertisement for legal services paid for by a non-attorney spokesperson. Lacuna Ventures, LLC ("We" or "Us" or "Lacuna Ventures, LLC") is a consumer marketing group generating marketing materials and mediums for the benefit of consumers and lawyers or is instructed by lawyers to market their services. We are not a law firm. Any medical or health decisions are important, and you should always consult a medical professional before altering usage of any pharmaceutical or product. We make no representation as to quality of the legal services to be performed being directly or indirectly greater than the quality of the legal services performed by other lawyers whatsoever or howsoever. Do not rely on any information herein as legal advice of any nature. Choice of an attorney is an important decision that should not be based solely upon an advertisement. By contacting Us, you consent to receive calls, text messages, or prerecorded messages from Lacuna Ventures, LLC or its affiliates via automated technology. You understand that you are not required to enter into this agreement as a condition of any service. By contacting Us, you expressly agree to receive a call back by different legal service providers and related services, even if you are on the "Do Not Call" registry. We are not affiliated with or responsible for the representations or services provided by the lawyers or companies with which you are matched. We reserve the right to disclose your personally identifiable information, as required, to comply with the law, applicable regulations, governmental and quasi-governmental requests, judicial proceedings, court orders or subpoenas, to enforce our legal notices or other agreements, or to protect our rights, property or safety or the rights, or to protect the property or safety of our users or others (e.g., to a consumer reporting agency for fraud protection etc.), and to ensure the security of our network and services. Information obtained is utilized solely to improve and enhance the quality of consumerattention.com and related mediums. Information submitted to consumerattention.com in some instances may be shared or sold to a third party service provider and consumerattention.com will not share or sell information submitted to us to any third party unless consent is authorized by you. © 2020 Lacuna Ventures, LLC. All Rights Reserved.

miles we climbed the backside of the ridge. Mostly sliding and slipping, we reached the flat ground and rested while waiting for the sun to rise. We cooled quickly after the long, sweaty hike in, but the thick tree cover blocked out most of the wind. The moss-carpeted valley floor was silent before the sun came up and the winter wrens began moving.

With the sun now peeking above the trees, our vision improved and we could see more of the open meadow. We were about to start cow calling when there, standing smack in the center of the bog, was a bull moose! Knowing we couldn't get much closer, we didn't dare to move.

Moose travel faster in the swamp than hunters do, and as we waited for the light to come, I stood against the back of a pine, hoping the bull didn't move off. He stood still, chomping a dripping mass of swamp moss, as I slid off the safety of my Benelli Lupo.

"He dropped!" Nate shouted after the bang. We started running, and both of us fell and got soaked in our excitement to reach the bull.

Nate and I stood there laughing and reliving the moment ... what an animal and what a place to hunt him. We filled out the paperwork, and I was beaming as we clipped on the Maine 2021 big-game tag. I then remembered how hard



Although the bull appeared suddenly after sunup, for the author it was a moment 31 years in the making.

BULL TOOLS

Gear essentials for moose hunting

Maine's moose are huge, and their habitat can make recovery difficult, so be sure to take a rifle and cartridge capable of quickly downing an animal that averages 1,100 pounds. I went with the bolt-action **Benelli Lupo in .300 Win. Mag** (benelliusa.com). The rifle's excellent ergonomics aided handling in difficult terrain and thick vegetation, and its accuracy resulted in one well-placed shot—the only one needed to drop my bull.

I paired the rifle with **Remington 180-grain Core-Lokt Tipped** ammunition (remington.com), a load that features an updated version of Big Green's flagship big-game bullet. The polymer tip improves the bullet's ballistic coefficient and helps initiate expansion, while the mechanically locked core and tapered jacket help retain weight. The wound channel created by the bullet in my moose was wide, deep and deadly.

Navigating the Maine woods before daylight would have been impossible without the **Streamlight Bandit Pro** headlamp (streamlight.com). The compact, 1.6-ounce light

produces a 180-lumen flood on high, and it's USB-rechargeable. Best of all, it kept my hands free for hiking through brush and timber.

Clad in **Mossy Oak Elements Terra** camo (mossyoak.com), the **Blocker Outdoors Shield Series Silentec** jacket and pant (blockeroutdoors.com) I wore on the hunt have S3 silver antimicrobial technology to prevent odor. They were quiet and warm without being too heavy for long hikes.

Living in Florida, I knew transporting all the meat home would be a challenge, so I connected with the Maine Hunters for the Hungry program. Founded in 1996, the state program is a collaboration with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Maine Warden Service, biologists, state troopers, game processors and hunters with the common goal of helping Mainers in need. Dube's Custom Meat Processing in Frenchville (207-316-8685) prepared the meat for distribution, and I was able to bring some home to share with my family.



MICHAEL F.X. CASSIDY (2)



Guide Nate Desrosier uses a portable winch to drag the giant bull 50 yards at a time.

it had been to reach Mirkwood—and we hadn't been dragging a thousand-pound moose behind us.

As I looked around Mirkwood hoping a helicopter would come pick us up, Nate started unloading his pack and pulled out a mobile winch. Here I had been, lugging around water, granola bars, rain gear and extra layers, thinking I was the prepared one.

We hooked the winch to a tree 50 yards away and the other end to the bull. Nate pulled the starter, and almost like magic we moved the moose from one tree to the next in 50-yard increments toward the open meadow. Everything was going smoothly until we ran out of gas.

As Nate started his hike out to refill the gas can, he told me he'd pull up to an old logging road about 500 yards to our east.

"Why didn't we come in that way?!" I asked incredulously.

"If we came in that way, flatlander, your moose would have been long gone before we got near him," Nate replied.

I'm never too old to learn something new, and was reminded that local guides know not only the area but also strategies to help you be successful.

Later we collected tissue samples and

blood for Maine's moose health study (see sidebar, page 76). I was excited to participate in the study and felt very clinical with my rubber gloves and collection tubes. We would later deliver the samples to the registration station and provide the location of the hunt and other details.

As we finished loading the gear, a Canada jay sat atop a spruce tree waiting for scraps and singing to his compadres. I was grateful for the opportunity to hunt moose deep in the Maine woods with a guide who was as excited as I was to be out there. I had secured meat for home and for donation, learned about an important harvest study and gained a better understanding of moose habitat and the challenges these animals face in an ever-changing world.

My Maine moose hunt was one of those rare times in life when reality exceeds expectations. I'll continue to fill out my lottery application annually, and hopefully it won't be another 31 years before I return. **G+**

Boost Testosterone

Drive & Peak Performance



EXPIRES 12/31/22 MANUFACTURERS COUPON

SAVE \$3.00

ANY IRWIN NATURALS PRODUCT

Consumer: Redeemable at retail locations only. Not valid for online or mail-order purchases. Retailer: Irwin Naturals will reimburse you for the face value plus 8 (cents) handling provided it is redeemed by a consumer at the time of purchase on the brand specified. Coupons not properly redeemed will be void and held. Reproduction by any party by any means is expressly prohibited. Any other use constitutes fraud. Irwin Naturals reserves the right to deny reimbursement (due to misredemption activity) and/or request proof of purchase for coupon(s) submitted. Mail to: CMS Dept. 10363, Irwin Naturals, 801 Union Pacific Blvd Ste 5, Laredo, TX 78045-9475. Cash value: .001 (cents). Void where taxed or restricted. ONE COUPON PER PURCHASE. Not valid for mail orders/websites. Retail only.

0710363-015089

\$3 COUPON redeemable at all Drug, Grocery and Health Food stores Nationwide

These statements have not been evaluated by the Food & Drug Administration. This product is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure or prevent any disease.

THE LIGHTER SIDE

HIKE FARTHER TO HUNT PRIME SPOTS
WITH A RIFLE THAT DOESN'T
WEIGH YOU DOWN.

By Game & Fish Staff

Carbon-fiber components have become prevalent on many lightweight rifles, such as the Christensen Arms Ridgeline FFT.

It's a simple tactic but one that works: Get away from crowds by hunting areas that require long walks to access. Not many hunters are willing to put in the effort to go the distance, and pieces of public ground that are relatively undisturbed often become havens for game.

A hike measured in miles instead of yards is more enjoyable, and typically takes less time, when your gear isn't a burden. Even when the hike isn't a long one, lightweight rifles encourage you to keep them in your hands, ready for a quick shot, instead of slung over a shoulder. There are some extremely

lightweight rifles available from manufacturers who specialize in cutting weight, but any well-balanced model that weighs less than 7 pounds will usually feel pretty good cradled in your arms. Rifle makers have made strides in producing easy-carrying bolt guns, and the following are among the best. 

COURTESY OF CHRISTENSEN ARMS



1 BERGARA PREMIER CANYON

With an AG Composites carbon-fiber stock and Bergara No. 4 contour barrel, the Canyon offers excellent balance that prevents it from feeling whippy. The stainless steel barrel undergoes Bergara's proprietary honing process that produces a smooth bore finish and enhances accuracy. It's married to Bergara's action that features a two-lug bolt with a floating head and cone-shaped nose for reliable feeding and consistent lockup. The Canyon is available in seven chamberings and with two barrel lengths.

CALIBER: 6.5 PRC
CAPACITY: 3+1 rounds
BARREL: 20" stainless steel
STOCK: carbon fiber
SIGHTS: none; drilled and tapped for bases

FINISH: Sniper Grey Cerakote
OVERALL LENGTH: 41"
WEIGHT: 6.2 lbs.
MSRP: \$2,429
bergarausa.com

2 BROWNING X-BOLT SPEED SUPPRESSOR READY

The shorter barrel on this X-Bolt is designed to be used with a suppressor, but whether you hunt with a can or not, it makes for an easy-to-carry rifle. Browning includes a radial-style muzzle brake and a protective cap for the 5/8"-24 threading. Cerakote protects the barrel and receiver from the elements, while the stock is finished in Browning's new Oviz camo pattern. The rifle is chambered for cartridges from .204 Ruger to .300 PRC.

CALIBER: 6.8 Western
CAPACITY: 3+1 rounds
BARREL: 20" steel
STOCK: composite
SIGHTS: none; drilled and tapped for bases

FINISH: Smoked Bronze Cerakote
OVERALL LENGTH: 40"
WEIGHT: 6 1/4 lbs.
MSRP: \$1,479.99
browning.com

3 CHRISTENSEN ARMS RIDGELINE FFT

Carbon-fiber-wrapped stainless steel barrels are a hallmark of Christensen rifles, and now the company combines them with a new carbon-fiber stock, floorplate and bolt knob to cut weight even further. The latter three components are produced with Christensen's Flash Forged Technology (FFT) that creates an aerospace monocoque shell to eliminate the need for internal support elements while still exceeding strength and safety margins. The company offers the Ridgeline FFT in 19 chamberings, seven of which are available in a left-hand version.

CALIBER: .270 Win.
CAPACITY: 4+1 rounds
BARREL: 20" carbon-fiber-wrapped
STOCK: carbon fiber
SIGHTS: none; drilled and tapped for bases

FINISH: black nitride
OVERALL LENGTH: 41 1/2"
WEIGHT: 5.3 lbs.
MSRP: \$2,399.99
christensenarms.com

4 MOSSBERG PATRIOT SYNTHETIC CERAKOTE

Here's a bargain: a Cerakote-finished bolt action that weighs 6 1/2 pounds and retails for about \$500. The Mossberg Patriot isn't an ultra-lightweight rifle, but at that price it's light enough. Features that add even more value include Weaver bases and an LBA trigger that's user-adjustable for a pull weight of 2 to 7 pounds. And unlike many lightweight rifles that give up a round or two in capacity, the Patriot has a detachable box magazine that holds five standard cartridges. Magnum versions come with a threaded muzzle.

CALIBER: .30-06 Sprg.

CAPACITY: 5+1 rounds

BARREL: 22" steel

STOCK: synthetic

SIGHTS: none;

Weaver bases included

FINISH: Stainless

Steel Cerakote

OVERALL LENGTH: 42 3/4"

WEIGHT: 6 1/2 lbs.

MSRP: \$518

mossberg.com

5 SAVAGE 110 ULTRALITE CAMO

A Proof Research carbon-fiber-wrapped barrel meets Savage's factory-blueprinted 110 action in a rifle that weighs less than 6 pounds. To help hunters harness the accuracy potential of these components, the Ultralite Camo is built on a Savage AccuFit stock with an adjustable length of pull and comb height for the ideal fit. The stock includes overmolded surfaces to prevent hands from slipping and is finished in KUIU Verde 2.0 camo. Other noteworthy features include the user-adjustable AccuTrigger and a threaded muzzle.

CALIBER: 6.5 Creedmoor

CAPACITY: 4+1 rounds

BARREL: 22" carbon-fiber-wrapped

STOCK: synthetic

SIGHTS: none; drilled and

tapped for bases

FINISH: Melonite

OVERALL LENGTH: 42 1/2"

WEIGHT: 5.8 lbs.

MSRP: \$1,699

savagearms.com

6 SPRINGFIELD ARMORY MODEL 2020 WAYPOINT

Think of the Waypoint as a lightweight precision rifle that's at home both in the treestand and on the 1,000-yard steel range. Despite weighing less than 7 pounds, the Waypoint comes with an accuracy guarantee of 3/4 MOA. The Model 2020 action features a bolt with a fluted body and two lugs that ride on EDM raceways for smooth operation. Adjustable from 2 1/2 to 5 pounds, the TriggerTech trigger utilizes a free-floating roller for crisp, consistent breaks to help hunters maximize accuracy.

CALIBER: .308 Win.

CAPACITY: 5+1 rounds

BARREL: 20" stainless steel

STOCK: carbon fiber

SIGHTS: none; Picatinny

rail included

FINISH: Desert Verde Cerakote

OVERALL LENGTH: 41 1/2"

WEIGHT: 6.9 lbs.

MSRP: \$1,797

springfield-armory.com



5th Generation Nitric Oxide Breakthrough Proven in Clinical Trials to Restore Maximum Blood Flow

Men across America are raving about a newly enhanced potency supplement that helps achieve healthy blood flow on demand

After age 40, it's common knowledge that performance begins to decline in many men. However, a new, performance empowering pill is showing that any relatively healthy man can now enjoy long-lasting, and frequent intimacy – at any age.

This doctor-designed formula, created by leading anti-aging expert Dr. Al Sears, has already helped men overcome low and sinking libido -- and has recently undergone a potency-enhancing update – with remarkable new results.

When the first pill -- **Primal Max Black** -- was first released, it quickly became a top-selling men's performance helper, promoting intimacy across America.

It worked by supporting healthy testosterone levels. However, Dr. Sears soon realized that this isn't the only challenge men face with performance. That's when he turned his attention to blood flow.

And this became **Primal Max Red**.



PROBLEM IS, RESULTS ARE MORE MECHANICAL THAN HORMONAL

Truth is, once blood flow slows down for men, no matter how exciting it is, it won't be enough without the necessary amount...

So enjoying intimacy without healthy blood flow becomes difficult for most men.

Luckily, a Nobel prize-winning scientist discovered the simple answer to help support performance strength and confidence -- by boosting vital blood flow -- and enhancing this essential performance function.

Using this landmark Nobel Prize as its basis, **Primal Max Red** enhanced healthy blood flow for untold millions of men around the world with the use of strong nitric oxide boosters.

While **Primal Max Black** helped maintain optimal testosterone, **Primal Max Red** tackles a lesser-known challenge.

Director, Al Sears MD, who has authored over 500 scientific papers and has appeared on more than 50 media outlets including ABC News, CNN, ESPN, Discovery, National Geographic, Lifetime, and many more say, *"Less than optimal blood flow can be part of a huge problem that affects a lot of men. And it needed to be addressed once and for all, so men would not dwell on it. Then, once we optimized it and had a great deal of success, we set out to see if we could do even better."*

The former formula had excellent results. However, new research showed that for even faster, anytime, anywhere results, increasing the dose of a key compound was needed.

So, one of the three nitric oxide boosters in the new **Primal Max Red**, L-Citrulline, was clinically boosted to 9000 mg, and the results were astounding. Which is no surprise considering that 5000 mg is considered a "normal amount" -- giving the new version nearly doubled the blood flow boosting power.

Men who had previously been



A new discovery that increases nitric oxide availability - resulting in even quicker, stronger, and longer-lasting performance.

unsure about their power and stamina were overjoyed to be back to their old selves and to get and maintain a healthy blood-flow when they needed it.

BETTER BLOOD FLOW, STRONGER RESULTS

The best way to promote healthy blood flow throughout the body is with the use of **Primal Max Red**. By using it, when exciting signals leave the brain, blood flows much faster like it used to.

This critical action is how men across the country are enjoying full and satisfying performance at any age. No need to bother with testosterone-boosting shots, blue pills, or shady capsules that have no effect.

Primal Max Red can effectively promote healthy blood flow that most men can use for maximum intimacy. This is leading to more greater capacity and satisfaction, coupled with long-lasting performance.

"There was a time when men had little control when it came to boosting their blood flow," Dr. Sears said. "But science has come a long way in recent years. And now, with the creation of ni-

tric oxide-boosting **Primal Max Red**, men can perform better than ever, and enjoy intimacy at any age."

Now for men across America, it's much easier to stay at their performance peak as they get older.

HOW TO GET PRIMAL MAX RED (AND FREE PRIMAL MAX BLACK):

To secure free bottles of **Primal Max Black** and get the hot, new **Primal Max Red** formula, buyers should contact the Sears Health Hotline at **1-800-906-4472** TODAY. "It's not available in retail stores yet," says Dr. Sears. "The Hotline allows us to ship directly to the customer." Dr. Sears feels so strongly about Primal Max, all orders are backed by a 100% money-back guarantee. "Just send me back the bottle and any unused product within 90 days from purchase date, and I'll send you all your money back."

Call NOW at **1-800-906-4472** to secure your supply of **Primal Max Red** and free bottles of **Primal Max Black**. Use Promo Code **PMAXGF0922** when you call. Lines are frequently busy, but all calls will be answered!



7 WEATHERBY MARK V BACKCOUNTRY 2.0 TI

A titanium action certainly cuts the weight of this Mark V, but Weatherby doesn't stop there. The combination of a No. 1 or No. 2 contour barrel (depending on chambering) and Peak 44 Blacktooth carbon-fiber stock results in some of the lightest magnum rifles in the company's lineup. To help reduce felt recoil, Weatherby gives the Backcountry 2.0 Ti the Accubrake ST muzzle brake and the 3DHex recoil pad, which collapses to lengthen the time element of the recoil impulse thereby lessening its sharpness.

CALIBER: .300 Wby. Mag.
CAPACITY: 3+1 rounds
BARREL: 26" steel
STOCK: carbon fiber
SIGHTS: none; drilled and tapped for bases

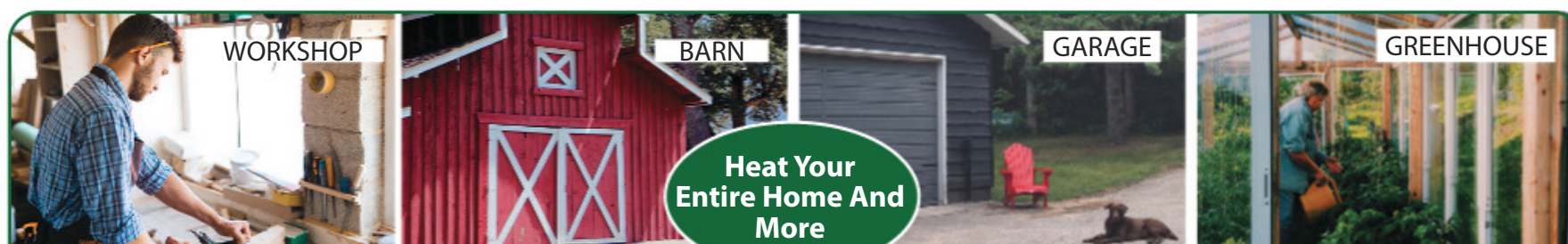
FINISH: black Cerakote
OVERALL LENGTH: 48"
WEIGHT: 5.6 lbs.
MSRP: \$3,449
weatherby.com

8 WINCHESTER XPR STEALTH SUPPRESSOR READY

The XPR Stealth follows the trend of offering a short barrel that comes from the factory with a threaded muzzle to accept a suppressor. It's a super-compact rifle without a can and one that continues to be fast handling with a suppressor onboard. The XPR action has a three-lug bolt, Winchester's MOA trigger set at a 3 1/2-pound pull weight, a two-position safety and a bolt-unlock button that permits cycling unfired cartridges while the safety remains engaged.

CALIBER: .350 Legend
CAPACITY: 4+1 rounds
BARREL: 16 1/2" steel
STOCK: composite
SIGHTS: none; Picatinny rail included

FINISH: matte black Perma-Cote
OVERALL LENGTH: 36 1/2"
WEIGHT: 6 1/2 lbs.
MSRP: \$719.99
winchesterguns.com



This is energy independence.

- **Most efficient** - Classic Edge HDX models have the highest efficiency of EPA-certified stick wood burning appliances (from EPA cord wood Hydronic Heater list 7-19-2022).
- **Easiest to operate** - Industry-exclusive FireStar® controller takes all the worry and guesswork out of wood heating. Works with any heating system and any firewood.
- **Easiest to maintain** - Fast, easy maintenance thanks to see-through full-access design and patented Easy View® Heat Exchanger with hinged door.

Learn more and find a dealer at
CentralBoiler.com



*US Internal Revenue Code Sec. 25(D) effective Jan. 1, 2021, for heating a residence. For more details visit CentralBoiler.com. Information provided here as a convenience and may not be relied upon as substitute for professional tax advice. Consult a tax professional with any questions. | ad7817

Your Silver Passport to Travel the World

The 5 Most Popular Pure Silver Coins on Earth in One Set

JUST RELEASED
NEW COINS
FOR 2022

Travel the globe, without leaving home—with this set of the world's five most popular pure silver coins. Newly struck for 2022 in one troy ounce of fine silver, each coin will arrive in Brilliant Uncirculated (BU) condition. Your excursion includes stops in the United States, China, South Africa, Australia and Canada.

We've Done the Work for You with this Extraordinary 5-Pc. World Silver Coin Set

Each of these coins is recognized for its breathtaking beauty, and for its stability, even in unstable times, since each coin is backed by its government for weight, purity and legal tender value.

2022 American Silver Eagle: The Silver Eagle is the single most popular coin in the world. 2022 represents the first full year of release of the Silver Eagle's new Eagles Landing reverse design, introduced midway through last year to honor the coin's 35th anniversary. Struck in 99.9% fine silver at the U.S. Mint.

2022 South African Krugerrand: The Krugerrand continues to be the best-known, most respected numismatic coin brand in the world. 2022 is the 5th anniversary of the first silver Krugerrand. Struck in 99.9% fine silver at the South African Mint.

2022 China Silver Panda: Since its first issue, the China Panda coin series has been one of the most widely collected series ever, highlighted by one-year-only designs. This 2022 Panda features its first-ever privy mark honoring the coin's 40th anniversary. Struck in 99.9% fine silver at the China Mint.

2022 Australia Wedge Tailed Eagle: Introduced in 2014, the Wedge-Tailed Eagle is the first-ever collaboration between U.S. Mint designer John Mercanti and a foreign mint. With a new design for 2022, it's struck in 99.9% fine silver at the Perth Mint.

2022 Canada Maple Leaf: Since 1988, the Silver Maple Leaf's elegant design has made it a highly sought-after bullion coin. The 2022 coin features anti-counterfeit security technology—radial lines and a microengraved maple leaf with the number "22". Struck in 99.99% fine silver at the Royal Canadian Mint.

Exquisite Designs Struck in Precious Silver

These coins, with stunningly detailed designs and gorgeous finishes that speak to their country of origin, are sure to hold a revered place in your collection. Plus, they provide you with a unique way to stock up on precious fine silver. Here's a legacy you and your family will enjoy, and cherish. Secure yours now!

SAVE with this World Coin Set

You'll save both time and money on this world coin set with FREE shipping and a BONUS presentation case.

2022 World Silver 5-Coin Set \$199 + FREE SHIPPING

FREE SHIPPING: Limited time only. Product total over \$149 before taxes (if any). Standard domestic shipping only. Not valid on previous purchases.

 **SPECIAL CALL-IN ONLY OFFER**

1-888-201-7070

Offer Code WRD263-04
Please mention this code when you call.

Not sold yet? To learn more,
place your phone camera here >>>
or visit govmint.com/WRD



GovMint.com • 1300 Corporate Center Curve, Dept. WRD263-04, Eagan, MN 55121

GovMint.com® is a retail distributor of coin and currency issues and is not affiliated with the U.S. government. The collectible coin market is unregulated, highly speculative and involves risk. GovMint.com reserves the right to decline to consummate any sale, within its discretion, including due to pricing errors. Prices, facts, figures and populations deemed accurate as of the date of publication but may change significantly over time. All purchases are expressly conditioned upon your acceptance of GovMint.com's Terms and Conditions (www.govmint.com/terms-conditions) or call 1-800-721-0320; to decline, return your purchase pursuant to GovMint.com's Return Policy. © 2022 GovMint.com. All rights reserved.



SPOT, RANGE, SHOOT

THREE RANGEFINDING BINOCULARS THAT FIT ANY BUDGET

By Adam Heggenstaller

It is true that you get what you pay for when purchasing optics, but that doesn't mean you have to spend a fortune. The new crop of laser-rangefinding binoculars that pull triple duty as observation tools, rangefinders and ballistic computers are good examples. While price is typically dictated by the quality of materials (mainly glass) and construction, these build characteristics are only part of it. Rangefinding binos come with a wide variety of electronic features, and the more options they offer and ballistic calculations they perform, the more they cost. Considering what technological features you'll use—and what you won't—helps determine how much you'll have to spend. **GAF**



BUSHNELL FUSION X

MSRP: **\$699.99**

Magnification: **10X**

Objective Diameter: **42 mm**

Length: **7"**

Width: **5 1/2"**

Weight: **35 oz.**

Max Ranging Distance: **700 yds.,**

deer; 1 mile, reflective object

bushnell.com

Combining two optics into one unit, the Fusion X costs hunters less than if they were to buy many competitors' binoculars and rangefinders separately. Bushnell builds the rangefinding bino with its High-Definition Optical System, which uses fully multi-coated lenses and BK-7 prisms for high contrast and sharp images during low light. EXO Barrier lens protection repels the elements, dirt and oil, while IPX7 waterproof construction locks out moisture.

The rangefinding component of the Fusion X ranges objects to 1 mile with an accuracy of +/- 1 yard, and Angle Range Compensation provides true horizontal distance as well as line-of-sight distance. Automatically adjusting to the brightness of the image, ActivSync displays a black readout against light backgrounds and a red readout against dark ones to make it easy to discern ranges in varying conditions and types of cover.



SIG SAUER KILO3000 BDX

MSRP: **\$1,343.99**

Magnification: **10X**

Objective Diameter: **42 mm**

Length: **5 3/4"**

Width: **5"**

Weight: **31 oz.**

Max Ranging Distance: **2,000 yds.,**

deer; 5,000 yds., reflective object

sigsauer.com

The Ballistic Data Xchange (BDX) technology in the Kilo3000 permits hunters to pair it with a SIG Sauer BDX rifle-scope via Bluetooth and automatically receive an illuminated dot on the reticle representing the correct hold for the ranged distance. Inside the bino is an Applied Ballistics Ultralite calculator that determines bullet drop and wind drift based on gun and load specifics entered

COURTESY OF BUSHNELL (TOP)

by the user via the free BDX app. For hunters who do not have a BDX scope, the app displays a ballistic solution for the range transmitted by the Kilo3000.

The LightWave DSP rangefinder engine with HyperScan refreshes the range reading four times per second in scan mode. An onboard inclinometer reads the angle to the target and provides the equivalent horizontal range. The bino has ultra-wide broadband, anti-reflection lens coatings to maximize light transmission and is waterproof.



LEICA GEOVID PRO 32

MSRP: **\$2,899**

Magnification: **8X, 10X**

Objective Diameter: **32 mm**

Length: **6"**

Width: **4.6"**

Weight: **28.9 oz.**

Max Ranging Distance: **2,500 yds.,**

reflective object

leica-camera.com

Leica places impressive optical and ranging performance in a compact package that features newly developed 32 mm objectives for hunters who want a range-finding bino without bulk. Perger-Porro prisms and high-definition lenses optimize light transmission, color contrast and image quality. The Geovid Pro 32 is waterproof to 5 meters, fog proof and has a 100G impact rating.

Applied Ballistics software calculates equivalent horizontal range to uphill and downhill targets, providing correction values for holdover and turret adjustments as well as for wind holds. Embedded atmospheric sensors account for station pressure, temperature, angle and compass bearing. The optic pairs with the Leica Ballistic App via Bluetooth so hunters can input gun and load data. In addition, Leica ProTrack GPS mapping permits hunters to mark ranged targets on a smartphone utilizing Google Maps or BaseMaps, as well as on Garmin devices.

Dr. Bross All Natural Herbal Liquid Can Work Faster Than The Blue Pill

PRO+PLUS XTREME

Can Work In 30 Minutes Effective Up To 12 Hours.

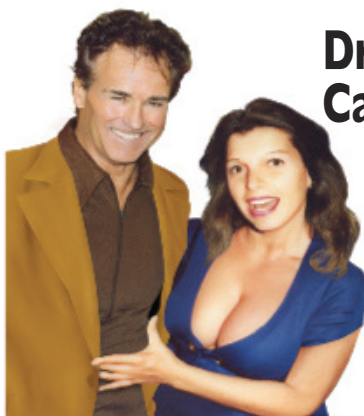
Take with or without your favorite beverage.

Greater Stamina & Longer Lasting Performance

Pro+Plus Xtreme is a professional strength liquid formula that digests quickly for immediate erections, increased blood flow and can help you maintain a firm erection.

Liquid is shown to work faster than pills or lube.

However some men prefer PRO+PLUS XTREME pills or lube as an excellent alternative.



I'm Sheri, My man takes the Pro+Plus Xtreme while listening to the Ever-Last Subliminal Audio CD and he satisfies me every time.

EVER-LAST AUDIO CD

Control Premature Ejaculation Programs your mind to help blood flow and help give you more control, firmer erections and performance.

Super Formulas See FREE Special Offer Online

SEXCITER LIQUID
Excites women better than Spanish fly. A couple of drops mixed with or without her favorite beverage can increase libido.

ATTRACT-A-MATE
Human pheromone spray can make women desire you.



Easy To Use • Quick Absorption • Fast Acting • Be Ready Anytime

PRO+PLUS MYTMAX TESTOSTERONE BOOSTER

Can Help Raise Testosterone Levels. Increase Drive, Libido, Performance, Energy Stamina And Strength. Reduce recovery time between intervals. Can increase performance in 3 to 4 days.

POWER SEX-ESS AUDIO CD ATTRACT WOMEN

Programs your mind to make you irresistible. Hidden subliminal messages sends commands into your subconscious mind to achieve confidence and sex appeal.



Call us about our products. We'll give you important information you can trust.

Be careful of discounters and imitators that sell the same type of products on Amazon, Ebay and Google. Our products are not authorized to be sold through these companies. Don't buy from sellers who don't disclose where their products are made, use inferior blends and cannot call them.

FOR THE FASTEST WAY TO RECEIVE YOUR ORDER:

Order Online: **WWW.ProPlusMed.com**

CREDIT CARD ORDERS OR CHECK BY PHONE: call **1-707-931-1001**

PAYPAL us at our email: **DELUXE69@EARTHLINK.NET**

Customer Service 1-747-230-5000 Se Habla Español



Mail Payment to: **Avid Pro Medical Dept. 210GEA**

22287 Mulholland Hwy Box #416, Calabasas, CA 91302

☐ Check ☐ Money Order ☐ Cash

www.ProPlusMed.com

Money Back Guarantee

Pro+Plus XTREME Lube or Pills or Liquid

Lube ☐	Pills ☐	Liquid ☐
Results in 2-3 Hours.	Results in 1-2 Hours.	Results in 30 Minutes to 1 Hour.
1 Jar 60 Applications	1 Bottle 60 Capsules	1 Bottle 60 Servings
1 Jar ☐ \$50	1 Bottle ☐ \$60	1 Bottle ☐ \$75
2 Jars ☐ \$85	2 Bottles ☐ \$100	2 Bottles ☐ \$125
3 Jars ☐ \$100	3 Bottles ☐ \$120	3 Bottles ☐ \$150

Total From Other Side \$

Shipping, Rush Service and Insurance \$20.00 VALUE ONLY \$14.95

Total Enclosed \$

MYTMAX Testosterone Booster	30 Days + 30 Days FREE	☐ \$45
Can increase sex drive and performance	120 Days + 120 Days FREE	☐ \$110
	One Year Supply	☐ \$150

© 2020 Avid Pro Medical. Individual results may vary. These statements have not been evaluated by the FDA. This product is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure or prevent any disease.

V196

Texan is America's Preferred Big Bore Air Rifle

TEXAN 50-CF



Thousands of hunters agree, the AirForce Texan is the world's most powerful and most reliable production big bore air rifle. Capable of over 800 foot pounds of muzzle energy and available in a wide variety of calibers and configurations, no other airgun even comes close.

Serious airgun hunting starts at AirForce Airguns.

www.airforceairguns.com

or contact us today at 877-247-4867

Shown with optional scope and rings.



AIRFORCE
airguns

ADVERTISE HERE

CONTACT

Brendan Vorobiev

730-800-6666

Brendan.Vorobiev@outdoorsg.com

RELOADING SAFETY TIP

Always start with the minimum load listed; NEVER deviate from listed loads.



REELFOOT LAKE

TENNESSEE

(731) 253-2007

REELFOOT LAKE TOURISM COUNCIL

1605 State Route 21 E, Tiptonville, TN 38079-3025

www.reelfoottourism.com email: visit@reelfoottourism.com

Nature's greatest gift to outdoor enthusiasts.

Reelfoot Lake is located in Northwest Tennessee in the Mississippi Flyway bringing thousands of waterfowl for hunting. A favorite lake for fishing large populations of Crappie, Bluegill, Bass and Catfish.

Come To Reelfoot Lake to Hunt and Fish and Stay at any of the Great Resorts on Beautiful Reelfoot Lake Tennessee.

THE PROBLEM WITH PRIDE

WHETHER MAN OR BOY, ASKING FOR HELP CAN BE DIFFICULT.

It was a warm evening in early October when Shane, his father and his father's new employee, Wayne, hopped out of the pickup truck near the lake shore. Wayne said he had fished often in his home state of Minnesota, but he hadn't gotten to fish much since moving South. As the men carried the boat to the water, Shane grabbed the tackle box and looked over an assorted pile of fishing rods.

"Mr. Wayne," he asked, "what rod and reel do you want? There's an Ambassadeur with a medium-heavy rod, a Shimano Curado on a fast action and a Zebco 303."

"Got a spinning reel?" asked Wayne. "No sir."

"What do you use?"

"I'm a Shimano man myself," replied Shane, "but I use a real stiff rod because I throw plastic worms a lot, and when I set the hook I like to let the bass know it."

"Sounds like you know what you're doing!" said Wayne. "I'll go with the medium-heavy."

Moments later Shane's father shoved them off. As Shane casted, Wayne rolled the Ambassadeur around in his hand, looking over it closely. Shane pretended not to notice when Wayne began to study his casting.

Oh boy, thought Shane with some concern, he's never used a baitcaster.

When Wayne attempted his first cast, Shane's hunch was verified. Wayne's line snarled so badly that it looked like an eagle's nest. His face flushed pink as he stared at the hopeless tangle in his hands.

"Not sure what happened," said Wayne. "Something wrong with the reel?"

"I dunno," said Shane, trying his best to be polite. "It was working yesterday."

"Is there another one I can use?" asked Wayne.

Shane looked down at his other reel near his feet. It had brand-new braided line on it, and he was about to use it now that they'd reached deeper water.

"You can have mine," offered Shane. "Or there's the Zebco back in the truck."

"I'd hate to go all the way back," said Wayne. "It'll cut into our fishing time."

"OK," replied Shane while looking at his father, hoping for some help. "Mr. Wayne, you *do* know how to throw a baitcasting reel, *don't you?*"

"Well, I mainly use spinning reels back up North ... but if you can use one,

then so can I. Besides, isn't a Zebco a kid's reel?"

Shane handed Wayne the rod, and for the rest of the evening Wayne casted gingerly, learning as he went. Finally he caught a bass, seeming very satisfied.

At dark as the fishermen departed the lake, Shane's father chose to go the back way out of the property, where there was an old barbed-wire gate. Shane strained mightily to open it. After the truck passed through, he tried to close the gate by throwing all his body weight into it, but he couldn't move the post the last few inches to secure it with the wire loop. He shoved again and again but just didn't have the strength. Soon he became embarrassed, especially when Wayne stuck his head out of the passenger window.

"Need some help, bud?"

"No sir, I've got it," Shane hollered back.

Shane endured a few more long moments of sweat and struggle before stepping back to study the cowboy-engineering of the gate. That's when he noticed the cheater bar attached to the post. He promptly used it to close the gate and hopped back in the truck, satisfied.

After they dropped Wayne off and were headed back home, Shane's father complimented his son. "You did good by being polite. And don't worry, I'll re-spool your reels."

"Thanks Dad," said Shane. "I don't know why he wouldn't ask for help."

"Well, son, probably the same reason you wouldn't ask for help with the gate. It's called pride, and we all suffer from it." 



NOW PICTURE — YOURSELF —



SAVING MONEY

GEICO®

GEICO.COM • 1-800-947-2886 • LOCAL OFFICE

GREAT LOW RATES | MULTI-VEHICLE DISCOUNT | SPECIALIZED AGENTS

Some discounts, coverages, payment plans, and features are not available in all states, in all GEICO companies, or in all situations. Boat and PWC coverages are underwritten by GEICO Marine Insurance Company. In the state of CA, program provided through Boat Association Insurance Services, license #0H87086. Motorcycle and ATV coverages are underwritten by GEICO Indemnity Company. Customer satisfaction based on an independent study conducted by Alan Newman Research, 2020. GEICO is a registered service mark of Government Employees Insurance Company, Washington, DC 20076; a Berkshire Hathaway Inc. subsidiary. © 2022 GEICO 21_782312631

SMASH

HUMAN ODOR[®]

SUPER CHARGED[®] SCENT KILLER[®]

ATTACKS A WIDE RANGE OF ODORS – MOST IMPORTANTLY, HUMAN ODOR!
Powered by HUNT DRY[®] TECHNOLOGY – Apply it, Dry it, and Go Hunt!

NOW 99% 10 DAYS AFTER DRYING!

99% Effective at stopping replicated human odor
10 Days After Drying – in testing at Rutgers University.

**LOOK
FOR THE
RED CAP**

GOLDEN ESTRUS[®]

WITH SCENT REFLEX[®]
TECHNOLOGY

- Super Charged[®] genuine Golden Estrus[®] Scent.
- Engineered with Scent Reflex[®] Technology for stronger more consistent results.
- Takes estrus type scents to a whole new level!



THE GOLD STANDARD[®] 100% MONEY-BACK GUARANTEED!



Urine used in Wildlife Research Center[®] products is being RT-QuIC tested and certified by CWD Evolution[™] that no CWD is detected.



RHSA DEER PROTECTION PROGRAM PARTICIPANT
www.RHSADPP.com

* The color gold for a cap is a registered trademark of Wildlife Research Center, Inc.
* The color gold for a bottle is a registered trademark of Wildlife Research Center, Inc.

**WILDLIFE
RESEARCH CENTER[®]**

WWW.WILDLIFE.COM

Helping Hunters Fill Tags For Over 40 Years