

2017 Success Rates

2016-2017 Winter Lion Hunts

We had 1 lion hunter and he killed a large tom. We spent the rest of the winter working on our newest business working with a film production company out of NY making western stage sets, transportation and catering for the making of a private film.

Spring bear

We took two bear hunters. One was an archery hunter and he wounded a bear but not bad because I saw him on a trail camera two weeks later. The other hunter shot a chocolate boar.

Summer fishing

We had one group of fishermen at the high mountain lakes and caught lots of fish. We also did well on Big Creek in August and September.

Archery hunts

We had two hunters the first week. They missed two raghorn bulls. It was very smokey.

The second hunt we had one guided hunter. He shot a 6 pt. bull and wounded a 190 inch buck. We also had two drop campers. They wounded a raghorn bull.

The last hunt we had one guided hunter and he wounded a 5 pt. bull. We saw a lot of game.

Wilderness fall bear hunts

We did not have any hunters so I had my boys come in and help us set up camps and cut firewood. They shot a black boar that squared 6' 11" and a chocolate boar that squared 6' 2". Needless to say, I spent more time skinning bears than they did cutting wood.

Wilderness rifle bugle hunts

We had 5 hunters the first hunt. We bounced around forest fires for the first two days. We wounded a 6 pt. bull, shot 3 six point bulls and 2 bears. One of the bears squared over 6 feet and died 20 yards from the tent.

The second hunt we had 5 hunters. We shot 2 small 4pt. bucks, 2-6pt. bulls, a 5pt. bull and had some close calls with other bulls. The one hunter who did not shoot anything had a hard time walking downhill because of bad knees.

The third hunt we had 5 hunters. We killed 3-6pt. bulls. We had some close calls with other bulls and a couple of bears.

Front range hunts: The Oct. 9-14 deer hunt we had 2 hunters and shot a decent 4pt. buck. The other hunter passed up bucks but did not see what he was looking for. My oldest son shot a 165 inch buck with me. The other son shot a 146 inch whitetail.

The second hunt was our first combination hunt for elk and deer and we had 6 hunters. We shot 2-6pt. bulls, a 5pt. bull, two average 4pt bucks, missed a 22 inch buck and probably saw more elk overall than I have seen in a long time. On opening day, all the guides counted over 40 bull elk that we saw. We also had a drop camp with a father and two sons. They saw lots of game but did not kill anything.

The third hunt we had 5 hunters but only 4 had elk tags. We killed a 6pt. bull, two 5pt. bulls, missed a small bull and saw numerous other bulls including one that would score in the 300-320 range. We killed 3 mature bucks and passed up numerous other smaller bucks. We had a drop camp of a two brothers and a 15 year old son. They shot 2 bucks.

The next hunt was back in the wilderness on the late November hunts. The first hunt we had 6 hunters, 3 were combination and 3 were strictly for deer. We killed 5 bucks and wounded a large buck. The hunter who wounded the buck chose not to shoot another one. We also killed 2-6pt bulls.

The next hunt we had 5 hunters. Two hunters went to spike camp. There was so much snow, it almost tipped the tent over. Every track they saw was headed downhill. They came back to base camp and shot two mature bucks but no elk. Two of the hunters were a husband and wife that have been hunting with me for years. She killed a 6pt bull and they both shot mature bucks. The other hunter was an old friend of mine. He saw multiple elk and shot a decent buck.

The last hunt we had 4 hunters. They shot 4 elk and 4 deer in three days and left early. All of the deer were mature bucks and two of the bulls were mature. The other two bulls were spikes the hunters shot for meat.

We have two late season deer tags in the front range for November. The first hunter hunted 2 days and did not see what he was looking for. He left early. He has hunted with us 2 times in the past. We kept looking for him but did not see a monster buck that we could get him to. The second hunter was one of our long time clients. He shot a very heavy buck and left after the third day. We saw a lot of bucks on these two hunts.

After last years' tough winter, I was afraid the game had taken a hit. I was pleasantly surprised by the amount of game we saw all season. Other than forest fires early in the season, the weather helped us tremendously. We saw and took more mature bulls than ever before. For the guided hunters in the wilderness, we took 27 elk hunters and killed 16 bulls. Most of them were 6pts. In the front range we had 10 rifle elk hunters and killed 6 bulls. For the late season deer hunters, we took 16 hunters and killed 15 bucks. Overall, we killed more animals than what we took guided hunters and no one got hurt. I'd call that a successful season!