

2023 Hunting Season

Cross Bar had a full booking for 2023 and the Wyoming draw for our area did not change much from the previous year. It took one point to draw deer, but three points to draw antelope. Elk took five points to be 100% successful in the draw. Unfortunately, there were some new regulations that forced us to adjust how we do our hunts. Our mule deer season reduced from 20 days to 14 days. Due to this new regulation, 6-day hunts had to be changed to 4 days to allow all clients the opportunity to hunt. We still had 100% success on our hunts, but it was a little more stressful for the guides and they could not be as patient in deciding to harvest an animal. There will be a change in the elk regulations for nonresident hunters applying for a general tag. The general areas were split into three regions and an allotted number of tags will be allocated for each region. According to the Wyoming Game and Fish, they feel the point creep will go down in our region based on their information. We hope this is accurate and we will find out in the 2024 draw.

This past summer was great for most of Wyoming with plenty of moisture. For our area, moisture came later than normal and lasted longer than normal. We had an average hay crop and was one of the greenest summers anyone can remember. We had fantastic weather this hunting season and made for good hunting. The cows and wildlife went into winter in great shape and through December, we enjoyed above normal temperatures with very little moisture. If the rest of the winter months are normal, there will be enough grass to keep the animals healthy.

Outfitter Pat, guides Mick, Kevin, and a new guide Chad Bulckley guided all the hunts this past season and as always, did an excellent job for all the hunters. Chad owns neighboring property we were able to hunt this past season. Marion and Mary continue to reside in assisted living at Primrose in Gillette and have adjusted well to their new lifestyle. They are missed at hunting camp by the hunting crew and hunters who have gotten to know them over the years.

The kitchen crew did another outstanding job all season. Sandy Holland did all the cooking again this season and did a fantastic job as always. We are blessed to have her in our camp. Glenda Hickman again did a wonderful job in cleaning all our facilities. We thank her for getting all the facilities ready for our season and making the transition between hunters so smooth. Pat's daughter, Jerzey, and son, Jarek again helped after school when they could. THANKS to an outstanding crew for their hard work.



Lucas Craig and the #1 Elk





Mark Davis and the #1 Antelope

We also want to thank Dustin Cargal and Tyler Watts, the owners of Olds Processing, for their outstanding job again processing our client's game. We also thank Dustin Cargal with Trophy Taxidermy for his expert care of our client's trophies.

P Cross Bar had a successful hunting season, but antelope numbers are still down from the disease three years ago. Antelope numbers are about 25% better than after the die off, but recovery has been slower than hoped. For this reason, antelope hunts were reduced to three hunters this past season with 100% success. There were eleven trophy deer hunters, eleven management deer hunters, two bull elk hunters and two cow elk hunters and all were successful. The horn growth on deer was down and is speculated it was due to later rain and having green grass going into fall. Deer numbers are stable and elk numbers are slowly growing.

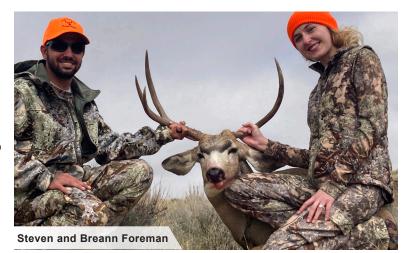
On to the hunts. Due to the reduced deer season, we could no longer offer bull elk hunts in combination with our other hunts. We started the season by hunting bull elk in September during the rut for the first time. Jeff and Lucas Craig flew in from Pennsylvania for their first hunt with us. Since they flew in early enough that day, were able to get some evening scouting in. The first day of the hunt, Jeff hunted with Pat as his guide and Lucas hunted with Chad as his guide. The day was guiet for Jeff and Pat with no opportunities, but Lucas and Chad had a memorable day. They found a good bull the first morning with some cows, but they were heading for some timber to bed. The bull was bugling, and Chad tried to bugle him back. The bull would reply, continuing toward the timber. They decided to leave the small herd for the time being and try to find them in the evening. Early that afternoon, Chad and Lucas spotted a different bull that bedded down. They could no longer see him so decided to set up Lucas where he could see a large area. Chad walked around the bull and was able to kick him up. The bull trotted out where Lucas could see him. The bull was a little over 300 yards away. Lucas felt comfortable and took a shot. He hit the bull who then moved further up a hill and fell right next to a road where he could be easily loaded whole. The nice 6x6 bull scored 289 2/8 and Lucas could not have been happier.

Now it was Jeff's turn. On the afternoon of the second day of the hunt, Pat and Jeff glassed up a good bull that was feeding by himself. They tried to sneak up on the bull, but the attempt was unsuccessful. A spike bull was feeding in the area, but the bigger bull had moved. The third morning of the hunt, while glassing a canyon, a bull was bugling in some timber. While trying to locate him, the bull from the day before was again feeding by himself lower in the canyon. Pat and Jeff decided to make a move on that bull. They drove to an area to get closer to put a stalk on the bull. There were four smaller bulls even further down the canyon and moving toward the bull they wanted to pursue. Knowing they had to hurry, Pat and Jeff got to the area to begin the stalk. As they were getting things gathered at the truck, a seventh bull was spotted straight across the canyon. It was a good 6x6 bull, but too far for a shot. Even though in site, Pat and Jeff walked straight toward the bull. The bull watched them but must have felt safe in a group of junipers trees. Pat and Jeff got to 320 yards and set up for a shot. Jeff shot across the canyon and the bull scoring

276 5/8 was down. Even though they could drive close to the bull, he was quartered for a short drag. Jeff and Lucas spent the rest of their time site sightseeing in the Gillette area waiting for the meat to be processed. They will both be back in 2024 for deer and antelope hunts.



The first week of deer season, Kevin Hodson and wife Carol returned for his sixth hunt in eight years. Their daughter, Breann Foreman flew in from California for her fourth hunt along with her husband Steven for his first hunt. Kevin was hunting trophy deer while Breann and Steven were hunting for management deer and all three teamed up with Pat as their guide. Late the first morning, an old 3x2 was spotted bedded in the sun. Breann had to be patient since the old buck would stand for a shot and she could only see his head. After making some noise, the buck got up, but trotted away from her. He finally stopped broad side at around 200 hundred yards and Breann made a great shot.



That evening, a 5x4 was spotted feeding with a smaller buck with some does. Kevin had to make a quick decision and decided it was a deer he could not pass up. The buck was around 100 yards away and Kevin got set up. He made a good shot and the buck scoring 159 4/8 fell right in his tracks.



After looking at several buck deer for Steven, one was found the afternoon of the second day. A cactus buck that was a stag in full velvet bedded across a large canyon. Steven thought it was a buck he liked but wanted to get closer for a better look. Pat and Steven decided to take a walk for a closer look and a plan was put in place while Kevin and Breann watched the buck from the truck. The sneak was perfect, and the buck was now up feeding with no idea of their presence. Steven set up for a 280-yard shot and made a fantastic shot. What a cool buck for Steven's first mule deer and great couple days of hunting. Kevin is booked to come back hunting in 2025.



Kevin Hodson, Breann and Steven Foreman

Since the Hodson family filled their tags in two days, Pat was able to take his 12-year-old son Jarek for his first mule deer hunt and guide Kevin drove along to help spot. Numerous bucks were spotted that morning, but was not until that afternoon, a big 3x2 management buck who has been elusive the past few seasons was spotted with another buck. They were feeding through juniper trees, but not in a good spot to try and get closer. It was decided to leave him for now and look in another area. No other bucks were spotted so back to the 3x2 to see where he may have moved to. Luckily, the buck was found right away on the opposite side of the hill he had been seen earlier. He was bedded and was the perfect opportunity for a young hunter. Jarek set up on a bipod and had to have some patience. It took 45 minutes for the buck to stand. Jarek took his time and made a great 110-yard shot. The buck took four steps and tipped over. Jarek was smiling from ear to ear with his first buck.

Lawen Griffith drove in from Pennsylvania for their eighth year out of nine. He brought his son, Lawen Jr. and grandson Patrick for combo hunts with Mick as their guide. Preseason, a unique crooked horn antelope was seen on the ranch which Patrick was interested in. Lots of glassing on the first day and this antelope could not be found. On the morning of the second day, this crazy antelope was found with a doe and chased her for a half mile. The buck and doe finally stopped for a breather right in the middle of a herd of cows. So, no shot was available. Patiently, Patrick waited, and the buck finally left the doe and ran the same half mile back to where he was first seen. Patrick was able to get close enough to the buck and made a great shot to put the antelope down. This buck scored 75 3/8.



The third day of the hunt was very productive for Lawen Jr. He shot both his bucks on this day. A high prong antelope was spotted in a hay field. This buck was a little cagey, but Lawen was able to make a good shot and put this buck down. Lawen's antelope scored 70 2/8.





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Later that afternoon, a group of four mule deer bucks were spotted. Lawen was impressed with the nice 3x3 in the group. Lawen was able to make a great shot and put this buck down. On the fourth day, Patrick and Mick went for a long walk looking for mule deer. While doing this, they got up wind of a doe which started snorting. This was actually a good thing, since a really nice 5X5 that was bedded behind a tree stood up and exposed himself. Patrick was able to make a great shot and put this buck down. Patrick's buck scored 162 1/8 which was the biggest buck of the year.

Dave Engel drove in from Michigan with son's Hunter and Zach for their second management deer hunt with P Cross Bar and was again teamed up with Kevin as their guide. It was a fun and eventful hunt. Day one was looking over the property for a good management deer to fulfill P Cross Bar and hunter expectations. Numerous deer were spotted, but none filled the criteria. Day two in the early morning was a different story. They drove up and saw a great 3X3 with eye guards that would make anyone proud. Zach made it happen with one well placed shot.



They saw more deer down by the creek bottom and since they were not spooked by Zach's shot, they could pursue the other deer before retrieving his buck. There he was, a beautiful velvet 2X3 with junk around the base was within shooting distance. Hunter used the same gun Zach used to put the cool buck to the ground. What a great morning.





Two deer down and very proud hunters. The rest of the day was spent looking for Dave's deer. Not one filled the criteria. Day three was again looking and looking. Time is not their friend. They are not finding what they are looking for. Time is running out. They found a very impressive 3x4 way off on the other side of a ravine. Not much time left, and he is hidden behind a tree at 400 yards. They needed a lot to happen in a short amount of time. Using the same gun that Zach and Hunter used, Dave set up on a tripod and waited ever so patiently for the deer to do what he needed him to do. Guess what he did, the buck came out and Dave placed a perfect shot that rolled the deer on top of a juniper bush. WHAT A SHOT!! With 10 minutes of shooting light left. P Cross Bar had three incredibly happy and satisfied hunters. What a week.



Terry Elschlager drove in from Washington for his first hunt with P Cross Bar and was hunting management deer. He would be guided by Chad on his property. The first morning of the hunt, they found a big heavy horned 3x3 that Terry really liked. He made a good shot and even though a quick hunt, he was taking a really nice buck back home.



Our second hunt of the season, Bill Etter and John Petersen drove in from California to hunt trophy deer and were back for their eighth hunt with P Cross Bar. Charlie Etter brought his daughter, Morgan, for her first hunt with us and he was hunting trophy deer, and she was hunting management deer. They brought a couple friends to fill the camp, Mark Miranda to hunt trophy deer and Mike Brazil to hunt cow elk. Bill and John hooked up with Pat as their guide. The first day was uneventful but did see plenty of bucks and a couple of possibilities. The evening of their second day, they took a little walk in an area that cannot be glassed from a vehicle. A buck seen the day before was up feeding by himself. No way to get closer and not enough daylight left, Bill felt comfortable taking a shot that was over 300 yards. He took the shot, but the buck did not fall and ran toward the bottom of the drainage. Bill took another shot, but could not tell if that shot hit. The buck disappeared and with the light quickly turning to dark, Bill went looking for the deer while Pat and John walked back to the truck to get closer. Bill found the old heavy horned 5x4 that scored 155 4/8 and it was back to camp to get his side by side to get the buck out.



The next morning, it was decided to hunt the same area where Bill shot his buck the night before since so many bucks had been seen in that area. An older 5x4 spotted on the previous day was again back in the area. John liked the buck, so he and Pat took off walking to get closer while Bill spotted from the truck. Not being able to get as close as hoped, John felt comfortable shooting across the canyon. It took a while for the buck to present a good shot, but finally he did. John took a shot and even though the buck was hit, he laid in a spot where another shot could not be taken. John and Pat walked closer. The buck jumped up, John made a great shot and knocked the buck down. John's buck scored 156 2/8.



Charlie and Morgan Etter teamed up with Kevin as their guide. They decided to put Morgan's deer priority because she is a youth hunter. Kevin understood the decision 100% because he had taken his girls for their first WY deer hunt too. What a proud father when their kids shoot their first WY buck. Day one was frustrating because they did find a good management buck toward the evening for Morgan, but it sky lined which makes for a bad ethical shot. The decision was to not take the shot. A particularly good teaching moment. Day two was much better. Late morning, they found a very good 3X3 on a hill side that dropped into the bottom of a ravine. Kevin dove into the bottom to drive the deer for Charlie and Morgan. They stayed on the hillside. The deer went back up the other drainage and stood broadside for Morgan. Guess what, one shot is all it took. One proud daughter and father. A beautiful management buck.



Now Charlie's buck, but no luck on day two. Day three, early morning presented a nice wide 3X4 with eye guards. They made a makeshift plan, and it did not work out. The only shot was with the buck sky lined so Charlie chose not to shoot. Day four was stressful, the Etter group was planning on going home if everyone filled their tags. Kevin and Charlie came up with a plan to go after the wide 3X4 that alluded them the morning before. Before sump they were in place to cut off the deer before he headed for the hills. The buck did not cooperate and went behind them. No shot was presented. They tried a stalk, but he eluded them again. Deciding to move on, they pulled up on a lookout and found two nice bucks in the distance. Kevin and Charlie discussed how to best approach and which deer to shoot. They drove to the bottom of a hill and started the stalk. They went around the hill and up the next. Slowly approaching the top, the buck they wanted was spotted. Charlie set up the sticks and made the perfect shot with his trusty 243. A great, dark horned 4X4 was down with one shot. It worked out, the Etter group was able to go home that day.



Mark Miranda and Mike Brazil hooked up with Mick as their guide. Mike had a cow elk tag which they were hoping to fill the first day. Sure enough, they got lucky and spotted a cow, calf, and a young bull in the rockpile canyon. A stalk was made, and they could only find the bull and not the cow or calf. So, they continued to look for the cow from a different direction and spotted the cow and calf bedded in the shade. A stalk was made, and Mike made a great shot and put the cow down.



On the third day of the hunt, after seeing many younger mule deer, they found an old 3x3 mule deer with brow tines that Mark was impressed with. Mark was able to make a great shot and put this buck down just before last light.



Between the second and third group of hunters, Mick had a free day. He was able to take his son Jaedin out for his first ever mule deer hunt. Kevin joined Mick and Jaedin for the hunt. Lots of hard glassing took place that morning and it was not till late morning that a 2x2 in velvet with a kicker was spotted. Jaedin set up and made a good shot and the deer laid down to expire a little way down a steep draw. Good thing they had Kevin, because it was a difficult drag to get Jaedin's buck to the truck.



The third hunt of the season, Bill Pritchett flew in from Georgia for his eighth hunt in ten years with P Cross Bar. He was hunting for the third year in a row for cow elk and was hunting with Pat as his guide. Bill flew in early afternoon on the day his hunt was to start. Pat picked him up at the airport, drove to the ranch and they were hunting by 2 p.m. Within the first 30 minutes of hunting, a cow elk was spotted in some trees. It was just short of a 400-yard shot and Pat thought there was a chance to get closer by walking. Unfortunately, the plan did not work, and the cow elk could not be found in the trees in which she was feeding. They decided not to go any further with the stalk, worried they

would spook the elk. They hunted other elk areas of the ranch with no luck. It was decided to go back to the spot where the cow elk was seen earlier in the day. There were some cow elk in the bottom of a canyon feeding but spooked after seeing the truck. Pat and Bill drove around to the top portion of the canyon to try and get in front of them. They walked out on a point in hopes to see the elk and hopefully get a shot. Pat and Bill peaked over a ridge and the two cows, and a calf were found milling around. Bill felt comfortable taking a 407-yard shot even though it was longer than the shot earlier in the day. The first shot was a little high, but the second one was perfect. Bill knocked the cow down and she did not take a step. All the other guides showed up to help find the cow in the dark and get it loaded.

Since Bill filled his cow elk tag so quickly, it gave Pat the opportunity to take his daughter, Jerzey, hunting for her first mule deer on the last day of the season. Bill drove along to help spot since he wasn't flying out until later in the day. Not much after daylight, a good management 4x5 buck was spotted across a dry creek bottom on a side hill. He was up feeding by himself and a good opportunity for Jerzey to sneak up on him. Pat and Jerzey snuck up a draw to get into position which worked perfectly. Jerzey got set up and right when she was going to pull the trigger, the buck laid down at 100 yards and could only see his horns in the sage brush. Jerzey sat patiently for two hours, and the buck stood back up at the peak of a solar eclipse. The buck fed toward her and turned broad side at 60 yards. Jerzey did not waste any time and the buck was down. She could not have been happier with her buck, and he was old enough that he only had a couple of teeth left in his mouth.



Jim, Joe, and David Raiten drove in from Wisconsin for their first hunt with P Cross Bar. Son's Jim and Joe booked the hunt as a Christmas present for their father David. Jim and David were both hunting trophy deer and Joe was hunting management deer. All three teamed up with Chad as their guide and wasted no time getting after it. They hunted the evening they got to the ranch since there were three tags to fill in four days. A nice 5x5 was found that evening that was too good for Jim to pass up. Chad and Jim snuck up on the buck and made a nice shot. The buck scored 156 6/8.





The next day they were at it again. Joe shot a management 3x4. David shot a nice 4x5 scoring 147 6/8.





Dale Morman drove in from South Dakota for his third hunt with P Cross Bar and was teamed up with Mick. The ranch had received some moisture which limited where they could drive. So, Dale and Mick set off on foot and put on several miles the first two days. Finally, on the third day of the hunt, it dried up enough to get around with the vehicle. With about an hour left of daylight, a very nice 4X3 mule deer was spotted that Dale was excited about. They were able to get close enough and Dale made a great shot to put this buck down.

Mark Davis from Arkansas drove in with son-in-law Josh Mize as a non-hunter with Kevin as their guide. Mark had a trophy deer and antelope tags. Mark purchased our last donated deer hunt from the SCI show in 2021 and upgraded it to a combo hunt. Morning one was the plan to go after the buck (wide 3X4) that eluded Kevin with a previous hunter. They went in before sunup and sat along the fence line. There the deer was, on top of the hill bedded. He finally stood up. Now he is sky lined. No shot. They worked their way back to the truck and continued to look for a good deer or antelope, but Mark had his mind set on the wide 3X4. No animals' day one. Day two they looked again for the wide buck. He was spotted way off in the distance. Kevin and Mark watched until he was unable to be seen any more. They put together a plan and made the stalk. The deer saw them before they saw him and over the hill he went. What a disappointment. It is early morning, so they put their focus on antelope. They drove over the hill and there was a good herd. They looked over the herd and saw the one Mark wanted. He got out of the truck and set up on the fence. Kevin said shoot when you are ready. WAIT, no shot, cattle came into view. Now Kevin and Mark blended into the cattle and walked with the cattle following the antelope. After a 200yard joint walk they came upon a watering hole and found a good shooting position. Mark set up and squeezed the trigger. A beautiful 77 0/8 high pronged antelope was on the ground. Now retrieve the antelope and look for the trophy deer. No luck for deer on day two. Mark really had his heart set on the wide 3X4 and didn't want any other deer. On the morning of day three, they found the 3X4. They watched until the buck bedded down. He was 1100 yards away on a hillside and a strategy was discussed to get closer. Take it slow and steady. While trying to get closer, they seen the buck get up and move further away but were not sure of his position. Stick to the

plan. They finally crowned the hill where the deer was last seen and there he was, 60 yards away. Kevin had the sticks ready and set them up, Mark set his gun in the sticks and WAM. Deer down. Josh, still sitting in the truck, watching the entire stalk through the binoculars and spotting scope, was as excited as they were. The buck scored 157 4/8. The elusive deer was no longer elusive.



We THANK all our hunters for choosing P Cross Bar Trophy Hunts, LLC as a place for your hunting experience. We truly enjoyed the time that you spent with us and look forward to our future adventures. Again, the P Cross Bar and crew send best wishes for a very blessed, happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year to all our old and new friends.

Please visit our website at www.pcrossbartrophyhunts.com for pictures and newsletters from previous years.



Marion, Mary, Pat, and Crew



P CROSS BAR TROPHY HUNTS, LLC **Marion & Mary Scott** 8586 N. Hwy. 14-16 Gillette, Wyoming 82716 pcrossbar@vcn.com 307-682-3994

> Pat Fiedor Licensed Outfitter BG007 fiedor1@hughes.net 307-660-3519

