**DULL KNIFE HUNTING**

**Ken & Cheri Graves**

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 Our ranch (Red Fork Ranch) has been in Ken's family for 5 generations. We run Red Angus cattle along the Red Fork of Powder River at the southern end of the scenic Big Horn Mountains. Along with the normal "ranch work" we offer a limited number of outfitted, guided hunts for elk, mule deer and antelope. Ken has been doing this since 1975. Our name "Dull Knife" Hunting comes from the Dull Knife Battle that took place here on November 25, 1876.

 Wyoming Game & Fish Department Phone number: 307-777-4600 and Website: <https://wgfd.wyo.gov>

You can apply for antelope and deer licenses from January 2 – June 2, 2025. Tentative draw date is June 19, 2025.

Go online to their website where you can apply for the big game animals you wish to hunt. During the application period, make sure to select “Apply for Licenses” instead of “Purchase Licenses”. The purchase buttons under the “Purchase License” link will be greyed out until July 17th for Antelope, Deer and Elk. You can also check out the drawing odds in various areas with or without preference points. A preference point for deer is $41 and antelope is $31. You can buy a preference point by going to the WGFD website and using the online system from July 1 – October 31. Only 1 preference point per year/per person. Go ahead and buy preference points They improve your chances of drawing in certain areas. The price of your **Conservation Stamp** is **$21.50** and is included in the price of your license if you draw. They just add that to your credit card. If your license has your Conservation Stamp info on it, you do not need to print out a paper copy. Those of you who were born on or after January 1, 1966 need to have your **Hunter Safety Card** with you. The “game check station” in Kaycee may ask you to provide it.

 At the ranch headquarters lodging is provided in our upgraded “Hunter/Guest House”. Home cooked meals are served at the ranch house.

 **We are not going to offer any mule deer hunts for the 2025 season and we have not taken any mule deer hunts since 2017. Our deer numbers are very low, but our mountain lion population remains strong! Our area for Mountain Lion is 15. In 2019 there were 47 lions taken, in 2020 there were 53 taken and in 2021 there were 56. However, in 2022, 2023 and 2024 fewer lions were taken. When you know a lion will kill a deer a week and a female with kittens will take more than that, you can see what has happened to our mule deer population. This past summer and fall we saw more mule deer than we have seen in a long time so we are hopeful we will be able to offer some mule deer hunts in the future.**

* Any buck deer with 4 or more points to a side or any buck with an outside spread of 24 inches or better will qualify as a trophy.
* Any buck antelope measuring 14 inches or more will quality as a trophy.
* Trophy hunts are on a first come first serve basis.
* If you are on a trophy hunt and a trophy animal is not harvested, the trophy fee will not be refunded or rolled over to a future hunt.
* If you book a mature buck hunt, you cannot upgrade to a trophy hunt during your hunt.

**Attention Deer & Antelope Hunters:**

 Our hunt areas are: Mule Deer - Region Y (Areas 32 & 33); Antelope - Areas 20, 21, 22, 23, 113

* Our rifle season for deer & antelope begins October 15.
* We have three primary 5-day hunts: October 15-19, October 21-25, and October 27-31.
* We try to have 1 guide/hunter for trophy hunts and most of the other hunts are 1 guide/2 hunters.
* During the rifle hunts the largest party we can accommodate at the Hunter House is *six*.
* You need to arrive at the ranch the day before your hunt begins, around 1:00 p.m.
* All hunters will be required to sight in their rifles at the ranch.
* All of our hunts will involve some hiking part of the time.
* After your animals have been harvested we can take your game to Buffalo to a processing plant.
* If a hunter wants to donate his/her animal it is the hunter’s responsibility to pay for the processing.
* If a hunter wants to process his/her animal it is the hunter’s responsibility, NOT our guides.

 **Some upgrades, improvements, and additions.**

* We now have a nice upgraded “Hunter/Guest House” for our deer and antelope hunters.
* We put an addition on the mountain cabin for the elk hunters.
* We are working with a neighboring rancher to expand our elk hunting for our elk hunters and working with another rancher for our antelope hunters.

 If you have any questions about filling out your license application, any of our hunts, our hunting program, or our ranch operation in general, please call. If we're not in, just leave a message.

 Thank you for your interest. Ken & Cheri Graves