

## **2022 Hunting Season**

**P**Cross Bar started 2022 by attending the 50<sup>th</sup> annual Safari Club International Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada. Unfortunately, it was decided it would be our last time having a booth at the convention. SCI is moving the convention to Nashville, TN. Due to the cost and being booked out so far, it was decided to no longer attend as a vendor.

We had a full booking this year, but the Wyoming draw in our area has become more difficult. It still takes 1 point for antelope, 1 point with special draw for deer and 4 points for elk to be successful in the draw. For the first time, three deer hunters were unsuccessful in the draw. Our repeat hunters will no longer be able to hunt every year with us unless they put in as a party with other hunters with points to share.

This past summer was great for most of Wyoming and especially our area. Moisture came at the right time for the grass and it seems the 2-year drought has passed. The ranch was able to put up a better than average hay crop and fires weren't a problem. The cows and wildlife went into winter with plenty of grass to feed on. All animals harvested were in great shape with plenty of fat for winter. Other than a couple cold snaps, winter has been mild, and the grass is still not covered in snow.

Two years after the disease went through our antelope numbers are still down. It seems the population is growing but still need a couple more good years to get it back to where it was. For this reason, we are only taking four antelope hunters next fall. The deer and elk population remains strong so expect a good season this fall.



Outfitter Pat, guides Mick and Kevin guided all the hunts this past season. They all did a great job as usual for all their hunters. Marion and Mary had to make the difficult decision to place themselves in assisted living at Primrose in Gillette. It was sure different not having them in camp this fall and were missed by everyone. Marion and Mary are doing well and are still adjusting to living off the ranch. A few clients stopped in to visit them during their hunt which they enjoyed.

Sandy Holland did a fantastic job in the kitchen with the help of Jerzey Fiedor when available. As always, the guides gained plenty



Larry Ward & #1 Deer of the Year of weight for winter with good meals and desserts for three weeks. We're all glad to hear Sandy will be back to cook next season. Glenda Hickman again did a great job cleaning all our facilities. We all thank her for everything she does for the camp.

We would like to thank Dustin Cargal and Tyler Watts, the owners of Olds Processing for the fine job again processing our client's game. Their staff does an awesome job and really take care of us. Thanks to Dustin Cargal with Trophy Taxidermy for his expert care of everyone's trophies. He is truly an artist when mounting heads for his clients.

In 2022, hunting at P Cross Bar was enjoyable for all. The weather was perfect throughout the season, and everyone had good success. Antelope numbers are getting better, all hunters were successful, but lack of mature bucks within the population is making hunting difficult. Our ten antelope hunters and eighteen deer hunters were all successful in harvesting their bucks. We had one bull elk hunter this season who was successful and 1 of 2 cow elk hunters found success.

## **ON TO THE HUNTS**

mhe first week of the season, the Etter group from California filled the whole camp. This is the seventh year they've been with us. Bill Etter and John Petersen with Pat as their guide were hunting trophy elk and trophy deer. Opening morning was very foggy and difficult to see. When the fog finally lifted around 10:00, a wide 6X6 bull elk was found. Bill made a great 420 yard shot and the bull was down. Now the most difficult part of the hunt, getting the bull out. It took some doing getting to the bull to get him dressed and in the truck. This bull scored 318 with an inside spread of 61 inches. The second morning of the hunt, a 5X5 mule deer was spotted for John, but no opportunity for a shot. Finally, on day five, the buck made his mistake and presented John a shot. He was able to make a good shot on the 5X5 buck that scored 153 4/8.

John Petersen

im Ayers, Larry Ward, and Jim Collins with Mick as their guide and were all hunting combo trophy mule deer and antelope. Again, heavy fog opening morning, once it lifted a non-typical buck was spotted in a difficult area. That evening, Jim and Mick were able to find the buck again. A stalk was made, Jim was able to make a great shot on the non-typical 6X8 mule deer that scored 169 1/8.



On the second day, a nice mule deer was found bedded down close to a two-track road and spooked by the truck. Tim really liked this buck. We were able to locate the buck again and Tim was able to make a good shot to put it down. Tim's 5X4 mule deer scored 165 5/8.



On the third day, Larry spotted a real nice mule deer. We watched the deer for a short time and the deer spooked. On day four, this deer was found again. Larry was excited to get a shot. A stalk was made, and Larry was able to connect on the heavy wide buck scoring 177 6/8 which was the best buck of the year! Also, on day four, an antelope buck was found that Tim liked. He was able to make a nice shot on the buck which scored 67 5/8.



Later, that same day, another antelope buck was spotted. Larry took a successful shot and the buck scored 66 3/8. Jim spent the fourth day with Pat as his guide hunting antelope. They were able to find a good buck. Larry made a nice shot and his buck scored 69 6/8.



Tunters George and Perry Short (father/son) were guided by Kevin Wolf. Day one was a slow day for seeing deer Lapartially due to the morning fog. A very impressive wide buck was found that had our attention. We worked hard on cutting the distance to get a shot but were unsuccessful. The next two days were spent trying to find that buck and fight the heavy morning fog, but he was nowhere to be found. Turns out this deer was never seen again for the rest of the hunting season. Day 4, the decision was made to hunt another part of the property. Another wide buck was found but ended up wandering off onto the neighbor's property. A lot of deer were seen that day, but still nothing on the game pole. Day 5 started stressful, 2 days remaining with no tags filled. Mid-morning a nice buck was spotted, and we put together a plan to stalk this deer. On the way with the truck to where the stalk would start, a very respectful management buck was spotted. George got out of the truck and set up for the deadly shot. We took care of the animal and proceeded onto the deer spotted earlier.



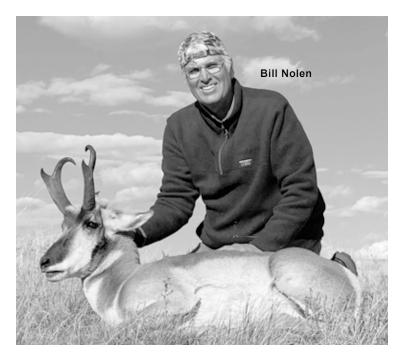
The time it took to take care of the management buck had paid off for Perry. We got to the spot where the stalk would start, and Perry saw him coming over the ridge. We rethought the plan and repositioned ourselves for an alternate stalk. It turns out, where we parked the truck, the deer was bedded across the drainage from us. Perry set up and waited for the deer to stand up. A good shot was made on the old 5x6 that scored 158 4/8. Now the pack out, about 180 yards of uphill/sidehill drag where a game cart could be used the rest of the way. A successful day to say the least.



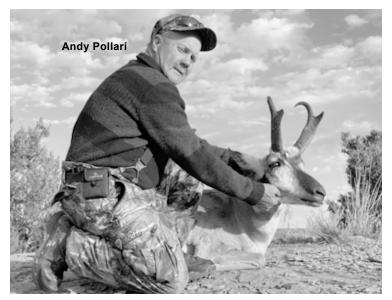
The second week of the hunt, Bill Nolen and Andy Pollari flew in from New Hampshire for their first trophy mule deer/ antelope hunt with P Cross Bar. On day one of the hunt with Pat as their guide, two mule deer bucks were spotted on the neighbors, but close to land we were hunting. We were hoping the bucks would make a mistake and cross into the area we're authorized to hunt. Unfortunately, the plan didn't' work and the bucks never crossed. On the morning of day three, a buck was spotted at daylight. Bill decided it was a buck he couldn't pass up. He set up on the shooting sticks and made a great shot. The buck scored 160 7/8.



On day three of the hunt, Andy had some tough luck and was unable to connect on a good mule deer buck. It was then decided to focus on antelope. On day four, both were successful in harvesting their antelope. Early that afternoon, a buck was spotted bedded on a hillside by himself. Pat and Bill put a plan together and started to sneak on the buck. Bill was crawling on his belly to get to a rock to hide behind and shoot from. Unfortunately, there was cactus scattered everywhere and unavoidable. Bill held tough and avoided the cactus as best he could. He reached the rock, set up and made a great shot on the buck that scored 67 7/8.



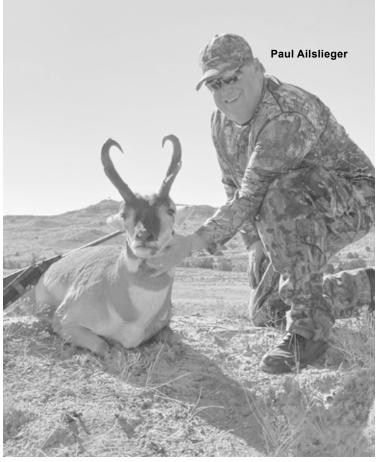
Bill spent the rest of the day distracted trying to figure out how to get cactus out of his legs and belly. About 30 minutes after loading Bill's buck, another lone antelope buck was spotted bedded down by himself. Pat and Andy came up with a plan to sneak on the buck. The sneak was perfect, but the buck had got up and moved. Luckily, the buck was spotted walking away. Andy set up on the shooting sticks and made an awesome 300yard shot. The buck was down which scored 64 7/8.



On day six of the hunt, Andy was still trying to catch up to a mule deer. Late afternoon of his last day of the hunt, a mule deer was found alone feeding. The buck became nervous and decided to bed where he couldn't be seen. It was decided to come back later and continued hunting with the thought of coming back. No other decent bucks were found so Andy wanted to go back to the bedded buck. We drove back to where he was last seen, and the buck was still bedded. The plan was for Andy set up for a shot and wait for the buck to stand and feed. The buck stood up as hoped and Andy made a successful shot on the buck that scored 148 3/8.

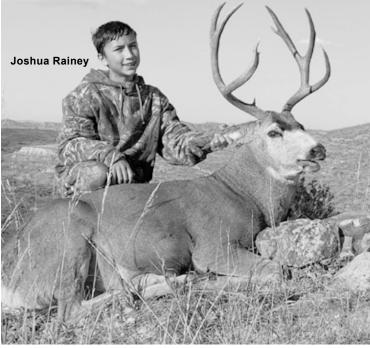


Paul Ailslieger and Suzanne Dwyer drove in from Nebraska for a two-day trophy antelope and management mule deer hunt with Mick as their guide. The morning of the first day was tough. A mature antelope buck was nowhere to be found. Shots were fired on the neighboring property and a herd of antelope ran over the hill with a nice buck. We were patient and let the herd settle down for a few hours. Patience paid off as Paul was able to connect with a nice buck that scored 70 0/8.

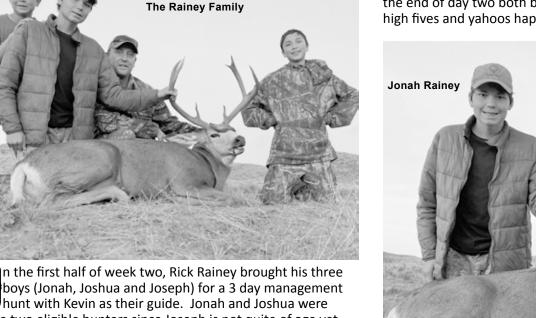


The second day of the hunt, it was Suzanne's turn for her management mule deer. Many deer were spotted that day, but it wasn't till the last few minutes of day light when Suzanne's deer was spotted and presented a shot. Down a steep hill, she made a great shot, the buck was down. It took a couple hours in the dark to get her buck to the truck.





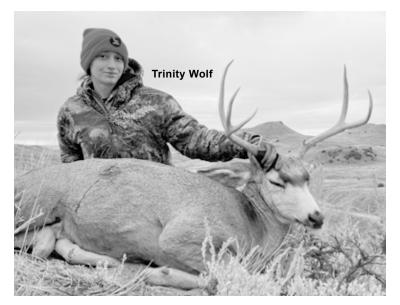
Now let's find Jonah's deer. We searched much of the property for the rest of the day. We spotted the buck for Jonah 45 minutes before night fall. We knew that was the buck we wanted so Rick and Jonah made a stalk that put Jonah in perfect position. Jonah made a perfect shot and at the end of day two both boys had their deer bagged. A lot of high fives and yahoos happened.



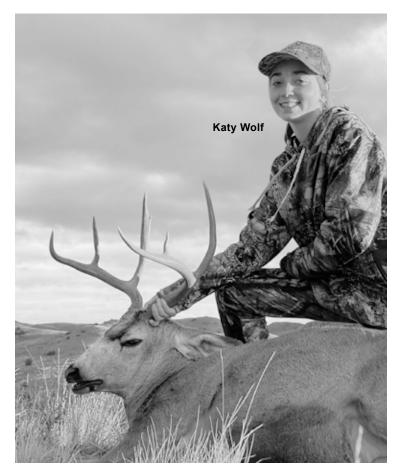
boys (Jonah, Joshua and Joseph) for a 3 day management hunt with Kevin as their guide. Jonah and Joshua were the two eligible hunters since Joseph is not quite of age yet. Day one was tough to find a classified management deer. This day was a lot of "no, that is not the one we are looking for". Frustration was high after day one. On day two, early morning, a unique stag buck was spotted, a plan was put into place to stalk this buck. On the way, a beautiful manage buck was spotted. The decision was made to go after the stag. The stalk on the stag did not go very well and he got away. Leaving the location, the beautiful management buck was bedded near where he was last seen. Joshua set up and made an exceptional shot and he had a very impressive first buck for a young hunter.



With the first half of week two done early, Kevin was able to bring his daughters, Trinity and Katy, in for management hunts. The coin was flipped, Trinity gets to shoot first. Early morning of the 15<sup>th</sup>, two management bucks were spotted together. Trinity set up and placed a perfect shot. The buck fell right in its tracks.



The other buck looked confused and stood looking at Trinity's buck, so Katy had an opportunity, but things did not work out. Trinity's buck was an easy drag and put in the back of the truck. We continued to search for Katy's buck. We found a good buck and a stalk was designed. It did not work out and the search continued. Near dark, we found a good buck for Katy, cross your fingers. We did a little stalk and Katy missed. The deer ran a short distance. I told her to take a deep breath, let it out, use the sticks and put the crosshairs behind the shoulder. With a squeeze of the trigger, the buck was down where it stood. Her first deer. The Wolf family was happy after a great day of hunting.



The second half of week two (Oct. 16), Kevin guided Bill Pritchett who was hunting management deer and cow/ calf elk. The plan was to find the elk first and look for deer later. Early morning, we found elk, but they were just over the fence on the neighbors. We continued the search for elk, but to no avail. At the end of the day, we found the right mule deer buck Bill was looking for (old, mature and heavy). Bill set up, took a shot and the buck was on the ground. Nice job Bill.



Day two of Bill's hunt started out where we saw the elk the morning before. No elk. We searched all the elk country and nothing obvious. Now, let's go to where Kevin seen elk earlier in the season and glass. We went to the spot and within 5 minutes Bill spotted elk. He set his sticks up and squeezed the trigger. What an awesome shot. Elk down. Now the drag. Teamwork allowed for the cow to be taken out whole. Bill filled his two tags.



he third week of the hunt, Jason and Robert Wentzel drove in from Minnesota. Both were here for a combo deer and antelope hunt with Mick as their guide. The first two days of the hunt many animals were glassed, but no shots fired. It was on the third day a heavy horned mule deer buck that we had been seeing gave Bob an opportunity. Bob made a great shot on the old heavy 4X2.



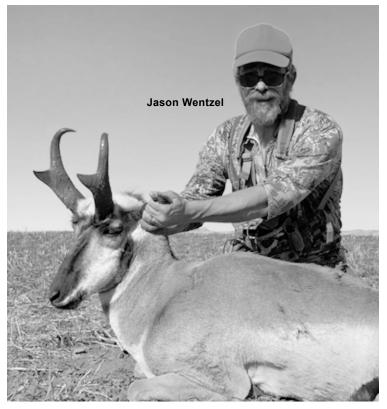
On the morning of the fourth day, it was Jason's turn. We had seen two mule deer bucks running together. At daylight, these bucks were spotted. The stalk was on, and Jason made a great shot and put the buck down.



On day five and six, we hunted antelope. Bob made a good shot on an antelope buck that scored 63 6/8.



Jason made a good shot on his antelope that scored 66 1/8.



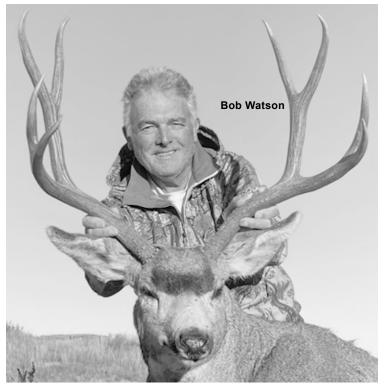
**B**ob Watson drove in from Pennsylvania and his son in law, Tony Snipes flew in from California to hunt trophy mule deer/antelope with Pat as their guide. The first three days of the hunt, they were chasing mule deer seen on the neighbors from the week before. The deer still wouldn't cooperate, so we came up with a new plan. On day four of the hunt, a group of antelope were feeding, and a good buck was with them. Bob made a good shot off shooting sticks and the buck scored 71 3/8.



Later that afternoon, a good antelope buck was found in the hay meadows and Tony was next to fill his tag. Initially, the buck didn't cooperate, the first stalk failed. The herd of antelope settled down and gave Tony a second chance. Tony set up and made a great shot. He ended up with the #1 antelope of the year scoring 75 5/8. (*Photo on Page 1*) Now it was time to fill some deer tags. The morning of day five, an old mature buck was spotted. Tony decided it was the buck for him. He made a good shot and the buck scored 141 2/8.



That evening, with about 45 minutes before dark, a good mule deer buck was spotted feeding by himself and then bedded. Bob had limited time, so we had to hurry to get closer for a shot. By the time he was in range, the buck was up feeding again. Bob made a difficult shot while still breathing hard and harvested a nice mature buck that scored 166 1/8.



The other guides and hunters were called in to help get the buck out of very difficult terrain. It was a late dinner for sure, but well worth it.

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 sends best wishes for a very blessed, happy, healthy and prosperous New Year to all our old and new friends.

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

Marion, Mary, Pat, and Crew







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