

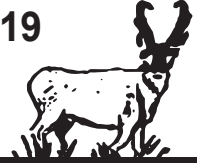
P CROSS BAR TROPHY HUNTS LLC



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2024 Hunting Season



Andrew Adamson and the #1 deer



Jeff Craig and the #1 Antelope

P Cross Bar Trophy Hunts had a full booking for 2024, and the Wyoming draw did have some changes from the previous year. It took one point to draw deer, three points for antelope and five points for elk to be 100% successful in the draw. The biggest change was the cost to be in the special draw. It was increased 100% to basically \$1,200. General elk areas were split into three regions, and we now hunt in the eastern region. We were hoping the point creep would go down, but it stayed at five points unless in the special draw which was three points.

This past summer was difficult with drought conditions starting at the end of May. The Gillette area received little moisture for the rest of summer and most of the fall. This resulted in our hay crops burning up before they could be harvested and the grass cured four to six weeks earlier than normal. Northeastern Wyoming had numerous wildfires which burned large areas that were mostly caused by storms with lightning with little to no moisture. Two fires came within four miles and six miles of the ranch, but luckily firefighters were able to keep them from getting any closer. Firefighters along with local ranchers and businesses all pitched in to help fight these fires. The entire county may have burned if it weren't for all those who pitched in to help.

The 2024 hunting season was probably the worst we've ever experienced. Population numbers were good, but horn growth was terrible. Rancher's calves in the area were 30 pounds lighter than average, and the deer showed half the fat they normally have in the fall. It is felt the grass didn't have the nutrition needed to put on fat and grow good horns with the added stress of the heat. Hunting conditions were difficult with hotter temperatures than normal and very little deer movement during daylight hours. The fall and early winter continue to be warm and dry which should help the wildlife stay healthy.

Outfitter Pat, guides Mick and Kevin guided all the hunts this past season and did an excellent job with the frustrating



Hunter Engel and the #1 Elk

conditions. We have the sad news to share that we lost Mary this past spring. A big loss for the family, ranch and hunting camp losing 70 plus years of knowledge in the hunting business. Mary carried many hats over the years from guiding, cooking and measuring heads for all the clients. She will be missed at camp, but we will all share the numerous memories. Marion continues to reside in assisted living at Primrose in Gillette. Even though it has been difficult for him to lose his wife of 71 years, he is doing well. Marion really enjoyed some of the hunters stopping in to visit him this past season when time allowed. Sandy Holland did all the cooking as well as the cleaning and did a fantastic job as always. She has committed to coming back next year and we all feel blessed to have her in camp. Thanks to an outstanding crew for their hard work and making P Cross Bar a great hunting destination.

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

With the hunting conditions being what they were, only one hunter didn't fill their elk tag which was more bad luck than anything else. Antelope numbers are still down from the disease four years ago and only allowed two to be harvested this past season with 100% success. There were nine trophy deer hunters, three management deer hunters, three bull elk hunters and one cow elk hunter. Deer and elk numbers remain stable, and antelope continue to slowly recover.

On to the hunts. The 2024 season started with Don Dietrich and wife Judy who drove out from Pennsylvania in the middle of September to hunt a bull elk in the rut with Pat as Don's guide. This was his fifth hunt with us, but he had never hunted a bull elk. The weather was hot and dry but didn't seem to affect the rut since bulls were chasing cows every day. Unfortunately, Don had some bad luck and had a couple good opportunities at nice bulls that just didn't pan out for him. He's considering trying again once he has enough points to draw again. After the hunt, Don and Judy took a short vacation traveling Wyoming and Montana before returning in October for a mule deer hunt.

Next, Dave Engel and son Hunter drove out from Michigan to try their luck at hunting bull elk. Both have hunted previously with us, but first-time hunting elk. Pat would be guiding Hunter and Mick guiding Dave. The first morning was probably one of the quickest elk hunts. Pat and Hunter were sitting on a canyon to glass at daylight. A bull was heard bugling behind them in a different drainage right at daylight. Pat and Hunter drove in that direction not knowing exactly where the bugle came from. They were driving between two drainages when Hunter spotted a cow and calf. They started glassing the area and noticed a bull on a ridgeline. The bull spooked down toward the cow and calf. Pat and Hunter snuck to a ridge where more of the drainage was visible. A second bigger bull was working up the drainage

toward the cow and calf as well. Pat and Hunter crawled closer to get a better look and the first bull was standing straight on at 70 yards. It was a nice bull even though it was a little smaller than the other bull. A decision was made, they had better try to get a shot at the smaller bull since he might scare all the elk out. Hunter set up on his shooting sticks and the stare off lasted a couple minutes. The bull finally turned broadside. Hunter had to take a quick shot before the bull dropped off the ridge. He knocked the bull down in one shot. The nice non-typical 7x7 scored 294 5/8. This was Hunters first bull, and he couldn't have been happier.



Dave Engel

Mick and Dave's first day wasn't quite as lucky as Hunter's. The first three days of the 6 day hunt a few small herds of elk were seen but nothing to their liking. On the evening of the fourth day, they sat in an area where elk had been seen throughout the season. At the end of the evening at dark, an elk that was close bugled several times. They knew where they needed to be the next morning. The next morning, Mick and Dave walked in early and sat down before daylight. As it lit up, they could see a bull and a few cows bed on a ridge. Just at shooting light, the elk got up and walked into some thick timber to bed for the day. The weather was very warm for late September. At 4:00 that afternoon, Mick and Dave left the truck to walk in and set for the evening and it was 103 degrees. For their third time sitting,

they had a good idea where this bull was going to come out. Luck was on their side. The bull and his cows fed out the top of the timber and gave Dave a great opportunity, which he made a great shot and put the 6X5 bull down. They made a quick call to our meat processor to make sure he stayed open late so the meat wouldn't spoil in the heat. Day 5 was Dave's lucky day which produced a very fun and memorable hunt.

Don and Judy Dietrich drove back from their small vacation to hunt mule deer with Mick as their guide. With the warm weather, the deer weren't moving during the daylight much at all. The evening of the second day a nice buck was seen close to dark that they decided to pass on. On the third day several bucks were seen but no shooters. The morning of day 4 they saw the same buck from the second day going to bed. Mick and Don focused on the area that evening, but again the deer didn't move till it was close to dark. They finally spotted the deer with 3 other bucks going to water about 30 minutes before dark. Mick and Don made a quick plan to put the sneak on these deer while they still had shooting light. Luckily enough the plan worked, they snuck within 30 yards and Don was able to make a great shot and put the 4x4 buck down on the spot that scored 153 0/8. Another exciting and memorable hunt for Don.



Don Dietrich

Jeff and Lucas Craig flew in from Pennsylvania for their second hunt with P Cross Bar. They were again teamed up with Pat as their guide and would be hunting mule deer and antelope. On the first morning many mule deer bucks were spotted, but no shooters. It was decided to spend the remainder of the morning and early afternoon hunting antelope. They came across a really nice antelope, but Jeff and Lucas decided to look around more since it was so early in the hunt. Early that afternoon, it was decided to go back and look for the antelope they passed on that morning. The buck antelope was found basically in the same spot he was in earlier. It was decided Jeff had first shot. He made a great shot on the buck and was immediately down. The buck was bigger than previously thought, scoring 80 6/8. What a great first buck and may never have an opportunity to shoot one bigger.



Lucas Craig

Day two of the hunt was kind of the same as the first. Many mule deer bucks were found, some possibilities but nothing to get really excited about this early in the hunt. So back to hunting antelope. A herd of about 30 antelope with four or five bucks were on the move toward them from a neighboring property. Pat and Lucas snuck up to some rocks where they thought they would come into the property. The plan worked other than the antelope had one get away where they couldn't be seen. Well, they took the way where Pat and Lucas couldn't see them. By the time it was noticed the antelope got by, the antelope were moving away at over 200 yards. Pat and Lucas hurried to the top of a hill and a quick decision had to be made. Lucas set up on the shooting sticks and shot what they thought was one of the bigger bucks. He made a great shot on the nice buck that scored 73 7/8.



Lucas Craig

Day three of their hunt, it was time to get serious about mule deer hunting. In the afternoon, guide Kevin called after seeing a buck he thought Jeff or Lucas might be interested in. Pat, Jeff and Lucas went to the general area where the buck was last seen. The 5x5 was too good for Lucas to pass up and he decided to take a shot and the buck was down. Lucas shot his first mule deer that scored 152 2/8. Day four was a little frustrating. A nice 5x5 was spotted feeding on a ridge and. Trying to get close enough for a shot was another thing. The first plan didn't work since it was too far to shoot across a canyon. By now the buck was bedded so they tried a second plan. This plan worked but the buck was up feeding again and fed over a ridge before Jeff could get into position for a shot. Pat, Jeff and Lucas walked around the ridge to find the buck again and he had moved further than expected and they bumped the buck. It was decided to see if the buck held up on the other side of a ridge he went over. They walked the ridge out and the buck wasn't found, but another herd of mule deer was found feeding in a bowl. It was a time-consuming sneak, but they were able to get in position. The deer were now bedded, but Jeff set up for a shot since there was a 4x4 he decided he would like to shoot. The deer spooked some and stood up. Jeff was able to get solid enough to take a shot. He was able to knock the buck down which scored 140 1/8. They called Kevin for help to get the buck out since his hunter had already left. Jeff and Lucas are booked to come back hunting elk for a second time.



Jeff Craig

Terry Elkow from Alberta joined Kevin for a 3-day management deer hunt. The temperatures were way above average, so the preseason scouting was not very revealing. Day one consisted of looking over the property for a good management buck. A few nice deer were spotted but not quite what they were looking for. Day two started out the same as day one until they got by the water trough. Three nice deer were spooked by the truck and ran over the hill. Kevin and Terry quickly got out of the truck and snuck over the hill, but the deer were nowhere to be seen. Kevin and Terry went to various viewpoints, but they had eluded them. Continuing the search, but no deer day two. Day three they went to the same watering trough but no deer. Went down the trail and there was a 3x3 Terry wanted. A stalk was put together, but

the deer was working away so no good shot was available. Kevin and Terry worked around for a different angle but now they had the wind at their back and the deer were working up toward the water trough. They went back to the truck and headed back toward the water trough. There he was, getting a drink. Over the hill he ran. Kevin and Terry snuck over the hill and right before they set up for the shot, the buck took off. Kevin had an idea where he went so, they checked it out. There he was. Kevin and Terry got out of sight and put on the sneak (a little belly crawl). 87 yards, broadside and one well-placed shot filled Terry's license. Well done, Terry.



Terry Elkow

Dennis, Robert, Chuck and Troy Motzkus drove in from Washington for their first P Cross Bar hunt. Dennis and Robert were paired up with Kevin as their guide. Day one was spent looking for two trophy deer. Mid-morning a good one was spotted but way off in the distance with a few smaller bucks. The best way to approach this deer would have the wind at their back. So, they decided to keep looking. 48 bucks were spotted that day, but no shot was fired. Day two the plan was to find the deer they liked the day before. Early morning they found him and 6 other bucks. Robert was the first shooter, and he set up. The deer were a bit spooky and walked over the hill. Robert moved up and there he was. He set up again and the deer walked over the hill with most of the other deer then walked back. With a well-placed shot, Robert had his 4x5 buck down scoring 140 6/8. The other deer ran and off in the distance stood



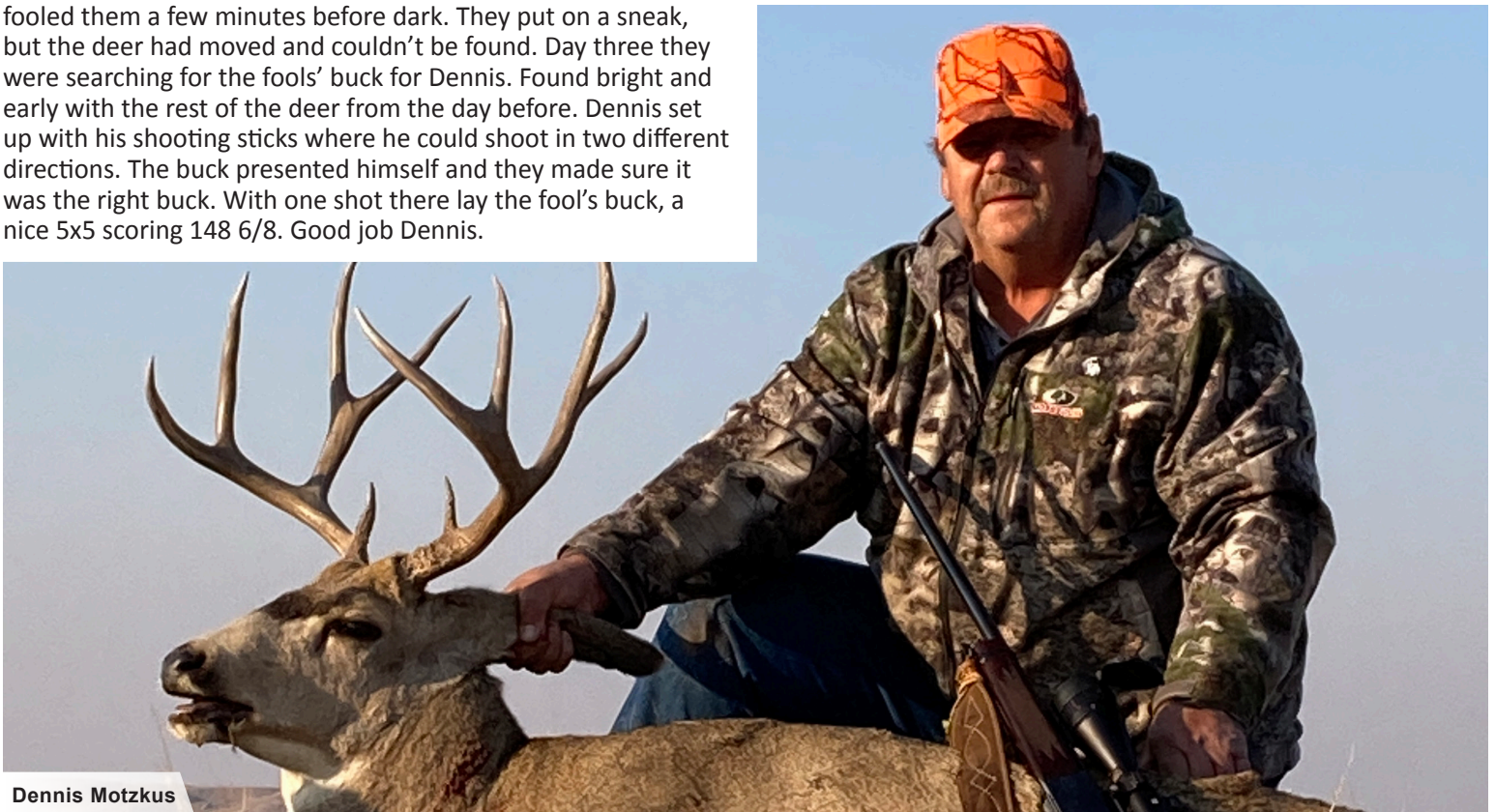
Robert Motzkus

the buck they thought Robert had shot. No blood was seen on that deer. Kevin said the shot was well placed for Robert's and that deer could be a different deer. Dennis says should I shoot it? Before he was able to set up, over the hill went the rest of the deer. Let's look for Robert's deer. Just over the hill, there it lay. Oh no, it is the wrong buck. The one Dennis asked if he could shoot was the one Robert wanted all along, how did that happen? After some laughter and high fives, they took care of the animal. Good job Robert. Later they found that buck that fooled them a few minutes before dark. They put on a sneak, but the deer had moved and couldn't be found. Day three they were searching for the fools' buck for Dennis. Found bright and early with the rest of the deer from the day before. Dennis set up with his shooting sticks where he could shoot in two different directions. The buck presented himself and they made sure it was the right buck. With one shot there lay the fool's buck, a nice 5x5 scoring 148 6/8. Good job Dennis.

Chuck and Troy, a father son combo, were paired with Mick as their guide. Opening day there was tons of deer activity. Many bucks, does, and fawns were spotted. A group of four bucks were spotted bedded high on a hill. Mick and Troy made a long patient stalk to about 200 yards. Luck was not on their side as the deer noticed them peeking around a bush before they could get positioned for a shot. Day two was similar lots of glassing and many animals spotted. As they drove over a hill a nice buck was spotted bedded too close to the road about 75 yards from the truck. Before they could get out of the truck and positioned for a shot the buck jumped and ran off. The evening of day three was Troy's lucky day as a nice old 4x3 buck was spotted bedded in the shade of a big juniper tree. Troy was able to get in position and made a nice shot to put the buck down. This was Troy's first mule deer scoring 126 2/8. The next morning



Troy Motzkus



Dennis Motzkus

Chuck's number was up. First thing after shooting light, a nice mature 4X3 was spotted feeding and about to go over a hill. A quick plan and stalk were put together. Chuck took a shot, and the deer jumped over the hill and was gone. They knew the buck was hit but were unsure how well. They made a mad dash to the top of the hill to see. It didn't take long to find Chuck's buck lying just over the hill. Chuck had made a great shot on the buck, scoring 132 3/8. A great first hunt for the Motzkus group.



Bill Pritchett

P Cross Bar enjoyed our new friends from Washington and hope they return in the future.

Bill Pritchett flew in from Atlanta for his fourth cow elk hunt with P Cross Bar. Morning one Mick and Bill went to the elk country in search of a cow. That morning it was discussed that they have never shot an elk in the Big Buck Draw. About noon, they were going to take lunch on a hill looking into the big buck draw. Instantly when they topped the hill a cow elk was spotted bedded on a steep hillside about 400 yards away. Mick and Bill were discussing whether to shoot a bedded elk or not. Within minutes, the cow stood up. Bill was able to quickly get in position. He made the shot, and the cow jumped and only went a short distance and fell in timber. This is when the work started. They had to recruit help from Kevin and his two hunters. They were able to get a side by side to the top of the hill. With 150 yards of rope, they halved the elk and winched it up the steep hill. Bill's first day luck struck again.



Chuck Motzkus

Phil and Rick Gaines from California had a 3-day management deer hunt with Kevin as their guide. The plan was for Rick to shoot first because he had not shot a mule deer before. Day one they hunted the areas of the ranch Kevin had not hunted yet this year. They saw a lot of good bucks but nothing that would be a solid management buck. Day one was frustrating. Day two started out frustrating. Late morning a nice buck was spotted, so a plan was put in place to shoot this buck. Kevin led the way on the stalk and spooked the deer, no shot was available. Continuing the search, two bucks were spotted in the heat of the day, and much speculation was made whether to attempt a stalk or not. It was decided not to since the deer wasn't quite mature enough. Continuing, they stopped at a good viewing location and a buck was spotted far off in the distance. That is what they were looking for. They drove the pickup closer and started the stalk. They were on the ridge with junipers as cover and had to watch their shadows so they would not spook the deer. Continuing the stalk, the deer stood up and Rick quickly set up on the sticks and placed a perfect shot on the management buck. He ran off about 40 yards and fell over. Mick was called



Phil Gaines



Rick Gaines

to assist in the retrieval of Rick's first mule deer and what a beautiful buck. Congratulations Rick. What a pressure relief. Still a little of daylight left they headed for camp but continued the deer search. While driving, Phil saw a silhouette of a nice buck on the horizon. Kevin pulled up for a better look and that was the buck Phil wanted. Phil got out of the truck and set up. 102 yards and one well-placed shot put the buck on the ground. Less than 90 minutes they filled both management deer tags. Good job Phil and Rick.

Woody Porter with wife Angie and daughter Jennifer drove in from California to meet up with son-in-law Andrew Adamson and his wife Mary Beth. Woody and Andrew were teamed up with Pat as their guide while the ladies hung around camp and did some sightseeing. Woody and Andrew were both hunting trophy mule deer. The first morning of the hunt was spent trying to find a good buck that was seen in the prior hunt but he was lucky enough to live another day. Unfortunately, there was no sign of this buck and no other worthy bucks. On the morning of day two, it was decided to look for the buck again.

Deer movement was starting to slow as they were starting to bed for the day. Pat decided to drive out another ridge and Woody spotted some bucks feeding on a side hill through some spotted junipers. It was too far to really tell how good the bucks were, so they drove to get closer. By the time they drove around, the bucks had moved and drove closer to them than they wanted to. Pat recognized one of the bucks which was the one they had been looking for. The bucks were not very spooky and laid down in front of some trees. After making sure it was the right buck, Andrew got out of the pickup and crawled over to a spot where he could clearly see the bucks and get a shot. All you could really see were the horns in front of the trees so the buck would need to stand to get a shot. It took a while, but after about 20 minutes, the bucks got nervous and stood up. Andrew was ready and took the shot and the buck was immediately down. There was no ground shrinkage on this deer and scored 185 1/8.

Now it was Woody's turn to try and fill his tag. Late morning of the third day, five bucks were found bedded in some spotted



Woody Porter

juniper trees across a big canyon. One of the bucks was a shooter and had their attention. The only shot was to shoot across the canyon so Pat and Woody crawled out to the edge to set up for a shot. The setup just wasn't comfortable for Woody and was a difficult shot, so it was decided to move on and look for another buck. Early that afternoon, A couple bucks were out feeding along a road, and the truck scared them over a ridge. It was decided to walk over to the edge of the ridge to see if the bucks held up on the other side. They had and Woody had to make a quick shot since they were starting to trot off. Woody made a good shot, and the buck tipped over. This buck scored 146 3/8. A special congratulations to Woody, he will be receiving the Wyoming Guide's and Outfitter's Association's Hunter of the Year Award at the next convention in April. An award well deserved, and P Cross Bar is excited for him and his family who will be attending the convention.

The season was wrapped up with Pat, daughter Jerzey and son Jarek hunting whitetail on the ranch in November. They didn't have a lot of time to hunt because of the sports the kids are involved in, but did get a few hunting days in. Many bucks were found during their hunts, but the opportunities just weren't the best because of long shots. Jarek never had an opportunity to fill his tag, but Jerzey was able to shoot her first whitetail late in the season. She was thrilled to make her first 200-yard shot.

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 you spent with us and look forward to our future adventures. Again, 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. Hope to see you all soon.

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



Marion, Mary, Pat, and Crew



A quality hunting experience

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