

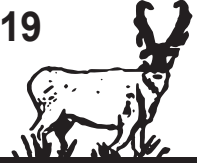
# P CROSS BAR TROPHY HUNTS LLC



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8586 N. HWY 14-16 • Gillette, Wyoming • 82716



## 2025 Hunting Season



Kevin, Mick, Woody, Andrew, and Pat

P Cross Bar Trophy Hunts had a full booking for 2025, and there were some changes in the Wyoming draw from the previous year. This past season, it took one point to draw deer, four points for antelope and elk went down to three points to be successful in the draw. Special draw continues to cost an extra \$1,200 above the cost of the license but we have not heard of any proposed license increases for the upcoming hunting season.

This past year, weather was much better than the previous year. The ranch had normal precipitation and it came at the right time. Our hay crop was a little better than average and there was above average grass for the cows and wildlife to feed



Chris Latham and the #1 Antelope



Bill Etter and the #1 Deer

on. The 2025 hunting season had mixed results, but population numbers remain stable for deer and elk while antelope slowly continue to recover. The horn growth on deer was fantastic and one of the better seasons we've had in a long time. The antelope had good horn growth, but the elk was poor. There were many bulls spotted during the elk hunts, but it was difficult to find mature 6x6 bulls. Through December, fall and winter have been unseasonably warm, but have been getting some rain/snow to keep moisture in the ground for spring grass. Wildlife should be doing well at this point in the winter and recuperating well after the rut. This year's hunters had 100% success in filling their tags.



Bill Pritchett and the #1 Elk



Outfitter Pat, guides Mick and Kevin guided all the hunts and had a great season. Marion continues to reside in assisted living at Primrose in Gillette and remains healthy and happy. His normal comment when visiting him is "I'm just getting a little slower every day but feel pretty good for a 93-year-old". Sandy Holland did the cooking and cleaning again and did a fantastic job for everyone in camp. Her daughter, Charity, filled in one weekend during a family emergency and she did an excellent job with little notice. We all hope Sandy will be back again next year to spoil everyone with her cooking.

We also want to thank Dustin Cargal and Tyler Watts, owners of Olds Processing, for their outstanding job of processing our client's game. They continue to take care of us and always provide a great service to everyone. Also, a big thanks to Dustin Cargal with Trophy Taxidermy for his expert care of everyone's trophies.

In 2025, P Cross Bar attended the annual Wyoming Outfitters and Guides Association yearly convention which Pat, Mick and Kevin attended. It was a special event this year since long time client/friend, Woody Porter received the Hunter of the Year Award. He and his entire family flew in for the convention, and we had a wonderful time together. Woody and wife Angie we're even able to meet the Governor of Wyoming after receiving his award. Once again, congratulations Woody on an impressive achievement and it was well deserved.

On to the hunts. The 2025 season began with Bill Pritchett and his wife Leslie driving out from Georgia for his bull elk hunt and teamed up with Pat as his guide. It did not take long to find elk in the first 30 minutes of the hunt. A 5x5 bull with some cows were found bedded in trees during the heat of the afternoon. Bill was pretty interested in the bull, but it was decided to continue hunting in hopes of locating a better bull. Late that evening, elk were seen feeding up a drainage. To have a chance, the only approach was to drive around the herd to get in front of them but that would take time. As they were driving around the herd, a 6x6 with cows spooked out of a drainage. Bill could not get a shot, so they drove to the drainage where the elk were headed. The bull was spotted trotting up a side hill through scattered junipers and Bill snuck up to a knoll to set up for a possible shot. The bull stopped broadside before dropping over the ridgeline and Bill took the shot. The nice 6x6 bull was down and scored 260 3/8. The bull was far enough down the side hill, they had to winch him out with the side by side in the dark. Bills luck had continued, one of many first day kills for him hunting at P Cross Bar.

The second elk hunter of the season was John Petersen from California who had flown in from Italy after attending a family wedding and Pat would be guiding him. The weather was warm during his entire hunt, and the rut was not as active as it should have been for that time of year. John hunted for seven days and had elk encounters every morning and evening hunt. At least twenty different bulls were spotted during the hunt, but the biggest problem was finding a mature 6x6. Pat and John talked about the possibility of him coming back to hunt elk in October when he was scheduled to hunt deer where he could hunt both. John liked the idea in hopes a bigger bull would show up. He came back and hunted with Mick trying to find a better bull. Unfortunately, less elk seemed to be on the

ranch and not near the encounters with bulls. The conclusion of John's hunt is later in the newsletter.

To start the deer and antelope season off, Chris Latham and Brad Van Magness drove in from Massachusetts. It was their second time at P Cross Bar and would again be teamed up with Pat as their guide. Chris would be hunting trophy mule deer and antelope while Brad was in search for a management mule deer. The hunt was abnormally hot every day of their hunt and deer activity was slow for most of the hunt. They spotted lots of deer, but the older mature bucks were holding up tight. After hunting deer the first morning with no luck, late in the afternoon a good antelope buck was found. Chris liked the buck and set up for a shot on his bipod. The buck presented a perfect shot and Chris squeezed the trigger. The beautiful buck scoring 77 3/8 was down, the number one buck of the season.

Now the focus could be just on deer. Chris and Brad hunted hard for the next couple of days and still struggled to find the right deer. Late morning of day three, a mature 5x4 with decent mass was spotted laying under some juniper trees. Chris decided he had better take the opportunity. A plan was put in place and the sneak was on. The plan worked perfectly and Chris was in good range for a shot. He got comfortable on the reliable bipod for another one shot kill on the buck that scored 147 6/8. The drag was a little steep, but thankfully it was a short one. Now it was time to get Brad a deer.



Chris Latham



On the last morning of the hunt, a nice management buck was found feeding but moving toward a canyon to bed. It was decided to drive around to cut him off before he disappeared for the day. They were close to the spot they wanted to be when another buck showed himself. It was just as nice a buck as the one being pursued so it was felt the opportunity could not be passed up. Brad set up for a shot and the buck started to get nervous and began to walk straight away. Pat whistled and the buck turned broadside long enough for Brad to take the shot. It was a good shot, but the buck rolled to the bottom of the canyon. Brad could not have been happier with the 3x3 being his first mule deer. Kevin was along for the ride that day since his hunters had filled and went home. His game cart came in handy and having four to help retrieve the deer made quick work. Even though deer hunting was difficult this hunt, they had a great time and look forward to them coming back in the future. Chris and Brad are booked in hunting for elk in the future.



**Brad Van Magnus**

New hunter Marty Bittle drove in from Illinois for a two-day management deer hunt with Mick as his guide. This was Marty's first Wyoming mule deer hunt. Opening morning, they saw several buck deer but passed a couple management deer trying to get an idea of what this season had to offer. That evening, an hour before dark, they found two buck deer and one was a good management buck. Mick and Marty put together a plan, made a quick sneak, and Marty was able to make a great shot which put the 4x3 buck down instantly. Marty is scheduled to come back with his son to hunt management deer and antelope in 2028.



**Marty Bittle**

Long time friends, Kevin Hodson and his wife Carol, drove in from Utah. Their daughter Brittany and son-in-law Dillion Black flew in from California. They were hunting management deer and guide Kevin Wolf would be matched up with them for their hunt. This was Dillion's first ever hunt. Day one started with looking for a management deer but not finding one to their liking. Day two they hunted a different area of the ranch. A buck was spotted but they were unsure if the deer was a 3 X 3 or a 3 X 4, so they decided to put a stalk on the deer and determine if it was the one. When they crested the hill, the buck had moved to the exact place they initially saw him from the truck. It turned out the buck was a 3 X 4 so not one of the management deer on the hit list. Back to the truck and on with the search.

A little while later they found two nice management deer that Wolf had scouted earlier in the year and took a picture when the bucks were in velvet. Dillion was first up and Wolf set up the shooting sticks. Dillion, with excitement, finally calmed down and squeezed off a round. He hit the 3x2, but the deer ran over the knoll and down into the creek bottom. Kevin and Dillion returned to the truck and moved up the road and there stood the other deer, a 3x3. He had followed Dillion's buck.



**Dillion Black**



Kevin got out and set up for the shot. A very well-placed shot dropped the deer in its tracks. Thinking the other deer was down near Kevin's they started to look. Up jumped the deer and off he ran back to where he was first shot. Wolf ran to see where the deer was headed and watched him bed again further down the creek. They left the deer alone for a bit of time and then walked to the hillside of the creek. Dillion and Wolf walked up on the deer and found him expired. Good job Dillion on you first mule deer. Carol and Brittany rode along during the hunts so they all could be part of the family experience. Looking forward to seeing Kevin and Carol in 2029 when they'll be back for Kevin's eighth hunt with us.



Kevin Hodson

On the second hunt of the season, Jason Wentzel drove in from Minnesota for his second hunt with P Cross Bar and hunted management deer with Pat as his guide. To say the least, this hunt took a ton of patience. On the first morning of the hunt, a wide old 3x3 was feeding with around six other bucks and over 20 does. The deer felt their presence and slowly fed straight away. At that time, the buck was too far to shoot and they could only watch to see where he decided to go. The buck ended up bedding in the wide open with all the other deer, and they were all spread out. The buck they were chasing was in the middle of the herd with no possible way of getting closer without spooking them all. Jason decided this was the buck he wanted and did not want to hunt for any other deer. Basically, Pat and Jason sat all day watching the buck hoping the buck would forget about them and feed back toward them in the evening. After sitting there all day, one by one the herd started to get up to feed. Pat and Jason were set up in case the plan worked and the deer would feed toward them. Surprisingly and thankfully the plan worked out. It took some time and they were losing light, but the herd finally fed into shooting range. Jason took his time and made a good shot. The old 3x3 buck was down after watching him for 10 hours and Jason could not have been happier.



Jason Wentzel

Scott Strickler and his son Joey Claxon along with lifelong friends Doug Kosch and John Nanos drove in from Michigan. Scott had previously hunted with P Cross Bar 15+ years ago with his father. So, for Joey, Doug, and John this was their first time experiencing a hunt with us. Scott and Joey were paired up with Mick as their guide. Mother nature granted us with some much-needed rain, so the first day of the hunt was muddy which kept everyone from hunting the hill country. So, they focused on antelope. Early that afternoon a nice heart shaped mature antelope buck was found that Joey was excited about. This buck was up feeding with a herd of does. Once the antelope fed out of sight, it was go time. After patience and a very long stalk, Joey was able to make a great shot on this buck that scored 74 3/8.



Joey Claxon

The evening of day two a nice 5x5 mule deer was spotted on the edge of a hay field with very little shooting time left before dark. A quick plan was put together, and a quicker stalk/run was needed to get into position. Once again, Joey was able to make a great shot and put the 5x5 buck down that scored 161 7/8.





Joey Claxon

Day three Scott was up. Shortly after lunch, a mule deer buck was spotted that had been previously titled "Fat Bastard". As they were glassing this buck, he stood up and turned his head. Scott was excited but able to calm himself down to make a great shot to put the heavy horned, large bodied 5x4



Scott Strickler

down. On the morning of the fourth day, they glassed three antelope bucks with a large herd of does. They focused on the best buck. The wind wasn't favorable on the first stalk, so a second plan was put together. On that stalk, the antelope spooked but luckily enough they circled around and stopped with the chosen buck presenting a nice broad side shot. With Scott on the shooting sticks and some creative shuffling he was able to stay on the buck until it stopped. Scott made a great shot to put the buck down which scored 68 5/8. It was great to see Scott back in camp and hope to see this group again soon.



Scott Strickler

Kevin guided the other half of the Michigan group, Doug Kosh and John Nanos, for trophy deer and antelope. Mick guided Scott and Joey, so the competition was on. The first day was wet and rainy so much of the rough country was off limits because of the muddy two track roads so they focused on antelope in the flats. Early morning there were antelope everywhere, but the big one was out in the middle of the field way outside of shooting range. They decided to come around from the other side and use the creek bottom to hide them during the stalk. They walked to a stock dam thinking it would be the best route, nope, it was not so had to go back.

After many angles, they finally found the right route to get within shooting range. They hid behind a windbreak to conceal themselves. Who is the shooter, Doug. The antelope moved toward them and Kevin set up the sticks for Doug. The 30 head of antelope did not see them but they had to wait for the buck to give Doug a clear shot. Doug placed a perfect shot at 100 yards. Doug's antelope scored 76 4/8. They took the antelope back to camp to hang and then started looking for an antelope for John.



Doug Kosch

They went back to where they originally saw all the antelope. John saw a wide antelope that he really would like to have. They saw him earlier, but he did not have all the does with him earlier. Turns out, the does that were with Doug's antelope were now with the wide buck. The antelope were skittish and continued to move around but finally got within shooting distance. They decided to let Doug and John out with the sticks and Kevin drove ahead. The antelope focused on the truck and John made a well-placed shot. John's antelope scored 67 6/8. Antelope tags are filled.





John Nanos

Day two, John would get the first shot for deer once the right one was found. John spotted a 5x5 shortly after sun-up. Kevin said it was a shooter, but there was no way to get closer at that point. It was decided to watch the deer from their current location. The deer started walking away so they relocated the truck to see if they could watch him bed down. The deer was headed toward another two-track road, so they decided to leave Doug to watch the deer. Kevin and John drove around to get ahead of the deer. Stopping the truck short of the draw the deer was in, they got out of the truck and there the deer was just entering the two-track road. Quickly setting up the sticks and John setting up his gun there was little time left for a good shot. There it was, John made a great shot, and the deer ran about 20 yards and fell. John's deer scored 169 5/8. They did not find another shooter the rest of the day.



John Nanos

Day three they did not find a deer for Doug to shoot until early afternoon. A 4x3 with one brow tine was found bedded down in sage brush about 120 yards in front of them. Doug got out and set up for a possible shot, but the deer did not move, no clear shot. Doug moves a little closer waiting for the deer to get up. No movement. Kevin moved the truck out of sight and the deer still did not get up. Kevin and Doug moved 5 to 10 yards closer hoping the deer would get up with no luck. They continued to do this process until within 50 yards and still no movement or clean shot. John suggested moving the truck ahead, which finally worked. The deer stood up broadside and

Doug squeezed off a round and all that happened was a puff of smoke. The primer went off and the bullet stayed in the gun and jammed it. With Kevin's quick thinking they used the antenna from Kevin's truck to unjam the gun, but the deer ran off. John saw the deer run off into the draw. They found him bedded again about 150 yards away. Set the sticks up again but spook the deer. The deer jumped up and stood there. Another shot and Doug dropped the deer. This entire process took over 2 hours and a lot of patience.



Doug Kosch

On the last day of the second hunt, Pat's hunter had gone home, which allowed time to take his son Jarek out to hunt a management deer. They found a buck that morning in the hay meadows, but he fed up a ridge line without presenting a shot. Pat and Jarek snuck up the backside, spooked the buck and could not get a shot. They were able to find the buck again and tried a second time. This time, the plan worked but Pat decided the deer was too young and would not allow Jarek to take a shot. Jarek then started wondering what kind of guide he had since so much time was wasted on one deer that he could not shoot anyway. Pat and Jarek continued hunting and quickly found another buck. There were two bucks bedded in a crease on a side hill. They snuck up as close as they could, but the crease was deep enough where they could not see them. Pat and Jarek waited for around two hours, and the bucks got up for a little bite to eat. Jarek could not get comfortable and didn't take a shot. The bucks fed around a point where there was no chance of getting closer without blowing them out. Pat and Jarek decided to go back to camp, have lunch and try to find them that evening.

That evening, the bucks were found immediately and were already up feeding. Pat and Jarek parked the truck out of sight and planned their attack. They snuck up a big hill to get close enough for a shot. As they were sneaking up the hill, they noticed an audience. In the distance, Pat noticed Mick and his two hunters, Scott and Joey, watching this all go down from Mick's truck with binoculars. The sneak got Jarek to 200 yards from the buck they wanted, and he had never shot that far before. Jarek set up on his bipod and took his time to get comfortable. He made a heck of a shot, and the old heavy



horned 4x4 was down. It was nice to have the audience so Pat and Jarek would have help with pictures and dragging the deer. Thanks to Mick, Scott and Joey for being a part of their experience.



Jarek Fiedor

The last hunt of the season, Bill Etter, John Petersen, Robert Schultz, Jamie Roscoe and Robert Roscoe drove in from California to finish off the season. Bill was hunting trophy deer and Jamie would be hunting management deer. They teamed up with Pat as their guide and did not waste much time. Pat had seen a good buck a couple of evenings previously. It was for sure a first day shooter and hoped he could be found. After covering most of the pasture where the buck was last seen, Bill noticed a buck lying in the grass in the wide open and it was the buck they were searching for. Bill got set up for a shot since the buck was in shooting range. He took the shot and flattened him. The 8x4 buck was the biggest of the season, scoring 190 6/8 non-typical, heck of nice buck. Now it was time to try and fill Jamie's tag.

After looking over numerous bucks, on the second evening of the hunt, the right buck was found. The buck fed over a ridge and out of sight so they would need to find him again. Pat drove around the ridge where the buck was found bedded. Pat and Jamie walked up the bottom of a canyon where they could not be seen and got into some juniper trees for cover close to where the buck was last seen. They peaked over an embankment and found the buck still in the same spot and in shooting range. Jamie set up and felt he could make a difficult shot. Unfortunately, the first shot did not pan out but he got one in him the second time. The 3x4 buck was down and Jamie could not have been happier with his first mule deer. Bill will be back in 2027 with another group of hunters for his tenth hunt with P Cross Bar.

John Peterson, with Mick as his guide, were hunting a trophy mule deer and continued to hunt for bull elk. Finding a mature bull elk this late in the season can be challenging. They scouted for the first three days of the hunt with not much luck on elk or mature mule deer. On the afternoon of the fourth day a 5x5 mule deer was spotted. John was able to get on the shooting sticks and put the buck down that scored 145 1/8. This was



John Petersen



Jamie Roscoe



the last day of John's hunt with all hands-on deck trying to find him a bull elk. All guides and hunters in camp went out for the evening hunt to help locate a bull to fill John's elk tag. Luckily, the neighbors scared a small herd of elk onto our property. The bull John was hoping for was not with the group of elk, but at least there was a bull so he could fill his tag. Mick and John were able to get

in front of the elk and get into position. John took a shot and the freak 5x2 bull was down in some trees on the side of a canyon with about 10 minutes of daylight left. It took a while to get the bull out, but luckily Kevin had a winch in the back of his pickup with lots of extra rope so did not have to pack him out.





**John Petersen**

Kevin guided Robert (Dutch) Shultz for trophy deer and Robert Roscoe for management deer. On day one they sat on a hill before daylight because a nice trophy deer had been seen in this area earlier in the season. They spotted him shortly after sun-up and it looked like he was feeding toward them. They decided to move the truck out of sight and get set up for the deer for where they thought he would pop over a hill. Nope, it went right where they first had the truck parked and they watched it trot off out of shooting range. They headed to where Kevin thought he might bed, but they spooked him. It was decided to leave him alone and return in the evening. No management deer found for Robert, so they went back to find a trophy deer but did not find any. Day two brought in rain through the night and into the morning. Good thing yesterday's trophy deer could be hunted on roads they could travel. Keeping the truck out of sight they sat along a stock dam and glassed. Found the buck feeding about 1000 yards away. Once bedded they came up with a plan. They made a stalk that ended too far away. They moved to another location and now had a shot. Dutch set up and the buck stood up and ran into the drainage out of sight. They moved closer and higher above last sight and there he stood at the bottom of the drainage. Sticks set and gun in place, Dutch squeezes off a nice shot. The fantastic 5x5 buck scoring 179 2/8 was down. Back to camp



**Dutch Shultz**

to get the game cart, a 1000-yard retrieve from deer to truck. Day three they were looking for Robert's management deer. Nothing was found until late morning and Robert spotted two deer. One is a management deer. The only way to get close was to come in above him and on the other side. They drove to a spot where they could do that. After a 500-yard walk, they were in place and peaked over the hill. The buck was bedded at 75 yards. After the buck stood up, Robert was able to make a well-placed shot to drop the 3x3 in his tracks.



**Robert Roscoe**

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](http://www.pcrossbartrophyhunts.com) for pictures and newsletters from previous years.



*Marion, Mary, Pat, and Crew*



*A quality hunting experience*

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