

## WYOGA HUNTING STORY CONTEST WINNER #1

# "My First Guided Trophy Hunt"

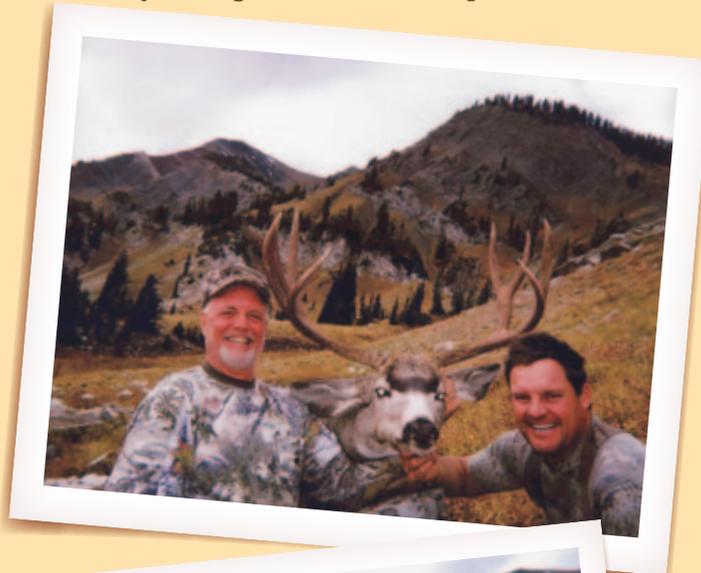
By Greg Bullock, Nampa, Idaho

**My Hunt in Wyoming** began with a new friendship with Guy Palmquist one of the principles with SNS Outfitters. We were introduced by mutual friends in Boise, Idaho and immediately connected on our love for hunting. Guy gave me the inside information on the record bucks taken out of the Box Y Camp on the Grays River. I contacted my hunting partner Kent Odom here in Nampa, Idaho and quickly purchased our points and made plans for the Oct. 3-7, 2010 hunt with SNS Outfitters. Kent owns a construction company and I am a real estate developer. We both have had a real tough time of it with this market the last couple of years, which made us appreciate this hunt all the more! Through the years, Odie and I have both killed a lot of bucks and bulls together here in Idaho, but have never been on a guided trophy hunt. The commitment was made and here we go!!

We arrived a day early and met our guide for the week David Dandridge, (I gave him the nick- name Double D) which seemed to stick. Double D immediately took us to the range where we both shot until we felt confident at the 500-yard target.

Our first morning out was a great day! The weather was too warm but in spite of it we saw 21 bucks and one possible shooter. At the end of the day Odie and I agreed the value of a licensed guide was not only in putting us into position to score on a record buck, but his ability to score the buck before we pull the trigger. Double D had a simple system. If we spotted a buck in the 140 to 160 range he would say, "That's a good buck, he's about 155 or whatever he estimated." If we spotted a buck in the 160 to 180 range he would say, "that's a real good buck he's about a 175." If we spotted something over 180, Double D would say, "shoot that buck!"

On our second day we rode out of camp for about 2 hours and



just at daylight we spotted a "real good buck" at about 475 yards. We gave him a long look through the spotting scope and Odie turned to us and said, "I like his mass and height, I'm gonna kill that buck." I hung back and video taped the shot while Odie and Double D put the sneak on him and 20 minutes later Kent's 167 buck was down. A terrific uphill shot at over 400 yards and a satisfied hunter and guide. I couldn't be any happier for a great hunting partner!!

Up at four on the third day with a lot of anticipation for one of Double D's favorite spots.

We trailed the horses for a 30-minute ride and then up to the granite we headed. The bulls were bugling and I had a hard time concentrating on deer as we checked out a 380 herd bull. Just at daylight we broke out to one of the most beautiful high country granite bowls I have ever seen. The three of us glassed several bucks while listening to bull's bugle, when suddenly, as I spotted two cows and a calf; this monster buck stepped into my view right behind the elk. Immediately, I said, "big buck, big buck!" Double D through up his binocs and said, "shoot that buck!" He didn't have to tell me twice. Odie grabbed the video camera while I dropped to the ground and got a decent rest on a rock. Double D said, "326 yards." Odie found him in the video camera and said, "shoot that buck!" As the big boy turned to move out I let him have it. He flipped straight back and rolled forever as Double D yelled, "don't break those antlers, that's a plaque buck!!" After all the excitement finally

settled down I asked Double D to estimate his score. He put it at 186. That's very impressive; given the fact my buck officially scored 185 6/10. I turned to Odie and said, "That's why experienced hunter's like us go on a guided hunt!!"

Thanks WYOGA for all you do, and for the opportunity to share my story. We were fortunate to get some great video of the hunt as well. See you in April 2012. ■