

WYOMING OUTFITTERS & GUIDES ASSOCIATION

2016 GUIDE of the YEAR

Christopher Joel Gray

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FIRST FOR HUNTERS

I am Christopher Joel Gray, but everyone calls me "Joe". I was born in Sundance, WY and have lived in Northeast Wyoming for all my life so far. After graduating from Hulett High I went to work for Neiman Sawmills, Inc. as a Millwright. Neimans have been really good and patient to me through my four years of college and fifteen years of guiding.

After six years at the mill, Sheridan College was my next step in life. While studying in the Engineering field, I learned the consumer wants a good job with low cost and on time. So, I got just enough of an engineering degree to make my mother happy. My engineering and drafting degree also compliments the work I do for Neimans.

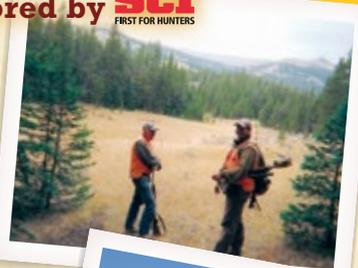
I went into guiding right after college. My father and uncle guided deer hunters in the early 70's. I wasn't around then but I think its in my blood. I started guiding for Paintrock Adventures up the East Fork of the Wind River and though the name has changed to East Fork Outfitters, it still remains my home in the fall.

I haven't been blessed with a wife or any little ones yet. I did just acquire a great nephew and am "Uncle Joe" to some good friends. Hunting and fishing with them is on my agenda for the years to come. One of the many things guiding taught me is this is a great way to be part of their lives.

When I rode into camp for the first time, I was as green as they come. I kind of knew which end of the horse was which but that's about all. The 2016 Guide of the Year award I've received has come with great acceptance. I hope it reflects on my mentors as much as

it does on me. Every part of my guiding career has been, and is still being, taught and coached in some way by each of the friends working with me on the mountain. And for teaching me what NOT to do, I have the mules to thank for that.

I thank you all for this great honor.
God Bless 🍀



BIG GAME HUNTING