

Blessed



HUNTER: CHARLIE BULLOCK
 SPECIES: SHIRAS MOOSE
 LOCATION: IDAHO

At the bark of the gun, the bull moose flinched, staggered, and began to turn away from me. His large paddles made small circles in the air as he questioned his ability to stand on four legs. I chambered my second round, and as I slowly exhaled while gently squeezing the trigger, the bull collapsed and fell to the ground. My eyes watered in the cold, 30 mile per hour wind, and as evening approached, I knew it was going to be a long night. Thankfully, I had talked my friend and fellow hunting guide, Nate, into helping me on my moose hunt. Boy, was he in for a surprise!

Nate and I guide for my parents' outfitting business. Our hunters had tagged out early, so we jumped in my truck and drove the four hours to Eastern Idaho where the majority of Idaho's moose population is still intact. The four trips scouting and hunting the area had paid off, but a sad euphoria fell over me as I began to walk towards my downed trophy. My days of hunting trophy species in Idaho were done, and what should have taken three lifetimes took only six years. I drew a mountain goat tag at the age of 13, a Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep tag at the age of 14, a California bighorn sheep tag at the age of 16, and now a Shiras moose tag at the age of 18. I thought I must be the luckiest person alive. In fact, the only person I know who can draw a tag faster than me is my little brother. He has drawn antelope, elk, moose, and