

## **2023 Success Rates**

### **Front Range Lion Hunts**

We had four hunters and killed three lions. The hunter who did not get one passed up a female in a tree after he took pictures of it.

### **Wilderness Lion/Wolf Hunts**

First hunt was a father son. They shot a female lion and a coyote.

Second hunt was two return hunters and they killed two bobcats.

Third hunt was one hunter and he killed two lions. Charlie killed a lion when he was done, and they missed a pack of wolves.

### **Cast and Blast Hunts**

We had a father and son on the first hunt. The son was in high school. They shot two average bears and missed two bears.

The second group of hunters cancelled out.

The third hunt was another father with a grown son. The son shot an average bear. The father said his hemorrhoids would not let him ride for more than 30 minutes, so they did not get far from camp. All the baits were being hit hard. Between the two hunts, everyone shot between 30-40 grouse. It was an unbelievable grouse year.

### **Sheep**

We had two sheep hunters, and both killed rams.

### **Archery Elk/Deer**

The first hunt we had a father and teenage daughter, and they did not kill anything. The daughter stalked within fifty yards of a buck but needed to get to thirty or less. They saw a large 7-point bull and spent several days trying to put that together, but he disappeared.

The second archery hunt had three hunters. They killed two small 6-point bulls. The hunter who did not get one hit one high above the vitals. The guides spent 2 days looking for it and did not find it. He punched his tag anyway. He spent the rest of his hunt looking for deer and hunting with his partner.

The third hunt we had one hunter. He saw a 330 bull. His knees started hurting and he left early.

The last hunt we had two hunters. They shot a 6-point and a spike. They saw several bucks but did not get a shot.

### **Archery Drop Camps**

we had a father/daughter on the second hunt. They heard bugling but could not get the bull to come in.

The fourth hunt we had four hunters. They saw lots of sign, a few elk and quite a few deer. They had a fun time but had never hunted out west before.

### **Rifle Wilderness**

The first hunt we had a husband/wife. They missed a 320, 6-point opening day. The guide got them back on it the second day at 50 yards, but they could not make it work. The husband was having problems with reloaded ammo. He killed a 280, 6 point the third day. After shooting it, he punched his deer tag on accident, so he was done deer hunting. He also punched the wrong date on the elk tag, so we had to have the fish and game come to our house and issue paperwork, so it was not illegal. Another return single hunter killed a 5-point bull and passed on a small bear. He flew out early. Another single return hunter killed a 320 bull and a 5 ½ foot bear. He never slept in a tent until the last night before he flew out. A father/son who had never hunted elk before left disappointed. I asked them to drive around with my son to hunt a different camp. We wanted to spread hunters out to give everyone the best chance. The elk were not where we thought they would be, but my son finally found them. He could hear a bull bugling, but they wanted to leave early. They passed up a spike bull as well. They were not in bad shape but were from Kansas and mentally and physically unprepared for our steep, rugged country. They forgot to read the part of the website where it says, "no whining." They were the kind of clients that make a guide's job miserable. They killed a 6-foot boar bear.

The second hunt we had four hunters. They killed a 5-point point where the father/son said there were no elk the week before, a 325 bull and missed a six-point bull. They missed a raghorn and saw a few other bulls as well but passed them up.

The third hunt we had four hunters. One of them was an old client from 20 years ago. He killed a 6-point bull, and his friend killed a 340 bull where the hunters from the first hunt said there were no elk. The other two hunters shot a 5-point bull and missed another 5-point bull.

The fourth hunt we had a father/son. They shot a raghorn 5-point bull and missed two wolves eleven times. The first shot was two hundred yards. The furthest shot was about six hundred yards. Their main goal was not to look foolish on this success rates page.

After they missed, Charlie told them they failed miserably and here it is in all God's glory.

The fifth and sixth hunts we had four drop campers. They shot a bear, a 26-inch buck and two bulls.

The seventh hunt we had seven hunters. Six of them booked together. The single hunter shot a 5-point bull and a buck. The other six shot two spike bulls and four bucks.

The eighth hunt, we had eleven hunters. A group of four had two hunters cancel out so I replaced them with two other hunters. One of those hunters lived in France and flying in from out of country. His luggage got left in France, so they were late getting in. They shot an old buck and missed a bull. The other group of two hunters shot a 5-point bull and two bucks. Another group of three did not get their rifles sighted in and I would not let them fly in until they did. They all shot good bucks. Two hunters hunted with me and another guide. We spiked out. We saw a 5 and 6-point bulls a long way off. We slept under the stars to get on them early the next day. We had the 5-point at five hundred yards, but the 6 point never gave us an opportunity. They got in the timber before we could get a shot. Both hunters shot good bucks. The last two hunters shot two bucks.

The last hunt we had a group of seven return clients. They shot seven bucks, missed four bucks, shot a 4-point bull, missed a 5-point bull, raghorn bull and 2 spike bulls. They always have fun but are not really known for their shooting ability.

### **Front Range Rifle**

The first hunt was our four-day deer hunt. After we started hunting for deer, the deer got hurt harder in the winter than I had originally thought they did. Later in the season, good bucks started showing up, but we just could not find them early. This was the wettest year I have ever seen and I think the deer were just not in their normal spots. We had four hunters. Two hunters were return clients. We had a big buck spotted. One hunter shot at it and shot the wrong one. The other hunters did not get anything but passed up several small four points.

The next hunt was a combination elk/deer, and we had six hunters. Three went home early without shooting anything and I am not sure why. They said they had fun and two of them said they were coming back. We killed three bulls; one was 350 and the other two were raghorns. We also killed three average bucks.

The next hunt we had six hunters. They killed a 5x6 bull, two 5-point bulls, two spike bulls and two small bucks. They missed a 5-point bull and two bucks.

The last hunt we had four hunters. They killed a 6-point bull, a spike, and a cow. Oops! There is no cow season. In the 28 years I have had the business and the eight years

guiding before that, this is the fifth time this has happened. Sometimes people make mistakes. The game warden was good about it and found a family to take the meat.

### **Front Range Drop Camps**

The first group of four deer hunters cancelled out.

The second group of four combination hunters shot a small buck.

The third group of three hunters also shot a small buck. They showed me on onX where they walked from camp. They did not get far. They thought they would see more elk.

The last group of three hunters saw cows and a spike bull at 150 yards but did not shoot. They also showed me on onX where they had been and did not get far from camp. One hunter was disappointed. The other two seemed happy. Even though the website describes the roughness of the country, they were not prepared for how rugged it was.

Overall, it was a remarkably successful season. Our record for number of bulls taken was set in about 2008 with twenty-nine. This year we took thirty bulls. I want to thank everyone who watched our hunt preparation video. It really helps when you show up prepared by not over packing and packing the right gear. The biggest disappointment this year was the number of hunters who showed up and did not read (or conveniently forgot) about tipping. We list all our prices on the price sheet including gratuities, but hunters showed up unprepared for gratuities. It gets kind of embarrassing so please read everything on the website.