

## **Success Rates 2025**

### **Lion hunts, front range**

We had a group of 3, a father and two sons. They did not get anything. The father was grossly overweight, and conditions were tough. I offered to postpone the hunt until conditions were better, but they chose to come on the scheduled dates. We treed a kitten but no large cats. They wrote a scathing Facebook review.

The next hunter was a return client, and he killed a large tom.

The next hunter could only hunt for 3 days, and we could not make it work before he had to go home.

We still had lots of lions in our area, so we took the neighbor and he killed a cat.

The last cat we killed was taken by Charlie's girlfriend. Charlie treed this cat while he was out training puppies. He and Clay treed 7 cats in 7 days. The new dogs are ready to go for next year.

### **Lion/wolf hunts, wilderness**

The first hunt we had one hunter and he killed an average size lion.

The second hunt we had two hunters. One struggled to get on and off the horse and even though he was under the maximum weight requirement, he was not prepared.

### **Sheep hunts**

We had two hunters and killed two rams on opening day.

### **Goat hunts**

We had two goat hunters and killed an average billy on the first day and another average billy on the second day.

### **Archery elk hunts**

The first hunt we had a 2x1. They shot at some does and missed.

The second hunt we had 3- 1x1's. Two of the hunters were return clients. Two hunters missed bulls and one hunter missed a buck.

The third hunt we had a 1x1. He missed a bull and shot a bull.

The last archery hunt we had a 2x1 and a 1x1. The 2x1 both shot at a bull and one of them shot at a buck. They hit both animals but did not find them. The 1x1 shot a raghorn bull and left early.

### **Archery drop camp**

We had two groups of hunters. The first group of 3 shot a 6-point bull. The second group of 3 shot a large 320 bull and missed some deer.

### **Wilderness rifle**

The first hunt we had 7 hunters. A 1x1 killed a 5-point bull and flew out early. A group of 4 hunters booked 2x1's. They killed 3 bulls, missed a bull and shot a small 4x5 buck. Another 2x1 were chasing a large bull and killed a satellite bull that they cow called in. They had a tough time the first few days and did not get into elk until later in the hunt. They had fun but said the guides worked their tails off.

The second hunt we have 7 hunters. Two hunters cancelled out so we had extra guides. A father/son spiked out and camped under the stars. They found a group of elk with four smaller bulls in the bunch, and they shot a 5-point and a 4x5. They spent the rest of the week fishing from the base camp. They did not have deer tags. Another father/son shot an average size bear and saw some elk with small bulls in the bunch but did not get a shot at the elk. The last hunter was 1x1. He left disappointed and felt he should have seen more elk. He left a much less than average tip even though my guide worked very hard. I told him not to call us again and he said that would not be a problem. He was probably the most negative person we have had in camp. When he thought people weren't watching, he would sneak into the cooler and drink milk straight from the jug. When he heard some of the other hunters had not shot anything one day, he told the guide he was happy since he had not shot anything either. He was just plain weird. In the future, I will be wary of Geico Insurance salesmen from California. Weather turned warm and I was surprised the hunters saw as many elk as they did.

The third hunt we had 6 hunters. We saw lots of elk and several good bulls but the only elk we shot was a six-point on the last day. The guide and his hunter didn't get back to camp until 3am- just in time to wrangle. We also had a hunter miss a bull at 130 yards. Everyone had fun and they were a great group to hunt with. The hunter who put this together for the whole group was a return client from 10-20 years ago.

Fourth hunt we had two hunters as 2x1. They killed a 5- point and 6-point bull by the third day and flew out early. They both had amazing stories from their days serving together in the sand box. My guide said it was probably the highlight of his season having the privilege to hunt with them.

Fifth hunt we tried some drop camps with hunters bringing their own stock. They got their mules over the summit, but it started snowing and they chose to take the stock back out before they got snowed in and stuck in the wilderness. They flew in and hunted on foot and did not kill anything. They flew out a day or two early. They had hunted with us before in a drop camp in the front range area in years past and killed elk.

Sixth hunt: We had some more drop camp hunters bring stock. They came from the other direction and were able to get their stock in and out although it took them a lot longer. They killed a small buck but had quite a few snowstorms to deal with. They did a drop camp with us in years past and had killed elk. They needed a place to keep their stock at the end of the hunt, so I got to visit with them. They said they had fun.

Seventh hunt: We had 6 hunters but one cancelled out. Two hunters almost cancelled out but chose to come for three days then leave early. They did not kill anything and were only interested in hunting elk. They saw several bulls. Two other hunters killed two bulls and two bucks. The last hunter killed a good 6-point bull and missed a wolf at 350 yards. Four of the five hunters were return clients.

Eighth hunt: We had 9 return clients that all knew each other. A father and two young sons hunted in one camp by themselves. One son was too young to have a big game license but could hunt small game. He shot a grouse. His older brother shot a 4-point deer, but I think the younger brother was prouder of his grouse than the older brother was of his deer. The dad shot a 3-point deer and wounded a wolf. We were going to split the other 6 hunters up in three different camps, but weather was bad and planes were delayed, so we just had everyone go to the main camp. The first hunter missed a spike bull and shot a small buck. Another older hunter missed a spike bull and a small buck and killed a buck. His son shot a spike bull and a 4x6 buck. Two hunters shot nice bucks and saw a large bull, and the last hunter shot a nice buck and missed a 5-point bull.

The last hunt had 10 hunters. The weather was beautiful but not necessarily great for hunting. A boyfriend proposed to his girlfriend while on the hunt. Thank goodness she said yes, or it would have been a long ride back to the airstrip. They were in spike camp. They saw quite a few elk and chased a 5-point bull and two raghorns but did not get them. Two other hunters came together and shot a buck and missed a 5-point bull. The other friend killed a buck and a bull. They saw a big bull but could not get to it. They booked back as soon as they got out. Another hunter passed on a spike bull and shot a small buck. Another hunter passed on a 150-inch buck and lots of smaller bucks but no bull elk. When he found a buck he wanted, he and the guide were stalking it and when they got close, his rifle was still in his backpack. While he tried to get it out, the deer saw them and ran off. We had a

group of 4 hunters with one guide. They shot two bucks but no elk. Everyone said they had a great time.

### **Front range**

The deer hunt had 5 hunters. A 1x1 killed a 4x5 buck the second day and left early. The year before he missed a buck and decided to come back and redeem himself. A 2x1 killed a 4 point buck the third day and a good buck the last day. A 1x1 missed a nice buck on the third day and had a good buck in his scope the second day but couldn't get a shot. The last hunter was a return client who was not in good shape. I told him he needed to be in shape and should not book this hunt based on his physical abilities from previous hunts. He assured me he was in much better shape. He wasn't. The first day the guide had a group of bucks spotted and he could not walk the 300 yards downhill to get to them. On the third day he could not find the buck in his scope. The last day he killed a small 4-point buck. He was apologetic and promised to be in shape next time. I think he felt bad about his overestimation of his physical abilities and made up for it with gratuities because my guide said he would hunt with him again if he did get in shape. Normally, that guide is hard on overweight clients.

The next hunt was the first combination elk/deer hunt. We had 6 hunters. The first hunter was in super good shape. He passed a bull at 400 yards because he couldn't shoot that far. The third day he killed a righthorn bull at 250 yards. The guide asked him to pass on three small bucks and he wound up killing a 4-point buck at 200 yards on the fourth day. He also missed another buck. His friend also shot a bull on the second day and a buck on the fourth day. They left early. We had a father/son combination. The father shot a righthorn bull on the third day at 200 yards. His son saw several bucks and bulls but passed on some small animals and missed a bull the last day. The last two hunters were return clients from twenty years ago. The first hunter missed a spike bull on the third day and shot a 4-point buck the same day. He shot a 5-point bull on the fourth day. His friend shot a 6-point bull the second day and wounded a good buck on the fifth day. They tried to track it on the last day of the hunt, but rain and snow hampered their task. My guide Sam took the week off to hunt deer. He had two wolves at 500 yards, but they were walking towards him so he thought they would get to 300 yards. They changed course and walked into the timber out of his view. He has determined that he is a much better guide than hunter and he says that he has become the client that he hates. We have not stopped teasing him.

The next combination hunt had 7 hunters. Two were return clients that brought 3 friends with them. The two return clients and one friend shot three bulls and three bucks early and left early. Of the other 4 hunters in camp, one guy missed a 5x5 bull twice then shot a 5x5 on the last day. His partner shot a spike on the fourth day. Another hunter missed two bulls

during his hunt then found out his scope was loose. He tried to shoot a deer, but it was the day after the season closed and the guide yelled at him. Thank God he was a terrible shot. The last hunter had two bulls at 100 yards but could not get comfortable enough to shoot. Since their clients tagged out early, Charlie and Clay came home and took their girlfriends hunting. One shot her first buck and the other shot a small buck and small bull.

The last front range hunt was for elk only as deer season had closed. We had three hunters and a non-hunting wife. The wife had broken her arm before she showed up so she did not ride horses. They got lost getting to camp. They were parked along the road at 10:30 at night when the guide found them. The hunter struggled to get around physically, was mostly deaf and missed two bulls and a cow. In case you were wondering, we have no cow season. One of the bulls was a nice 6 point and the closest shot was 120 yards. The other two hunters missed a bull the first night they got to camp and shot a 4-point bull the second day then missed another bull. They chose to go home early. After the hunters left and we pulled camp, we had an extra day, so I shot a spike bull for meat. There were 6 spikes and 4 raghorns in with a bunch of about 40 cows.

### **Front range drop camp rifle**

The first hunt was deer only for two hunters. They hunted two days then one of them's mother passed away so they left early. They were return clients and I felt bad for them. They saw quite a few does and a big bull on the one day they did get to hunt.

The second rifle hunt was a group of three elk and deer hunters. They saw a good bull and a smaller bull with some cows but could not get a shot at the elk. They killed a small buck.

The third drop camp had 6 hunters. They were from Maine. One of the hunters walked down from camp after the first day because the country was too steep. He and his buddy hunted from town. They saw lots of game, even from the road. During the hunt, we received a text from them saying they killed a 350 bull around camp. We rode to camp early to pack it out, but when we got there, it was a small 5-point. Apparently, if you hunt in Maine, you measure the animal by weight, not antler size. They also killed two bucks. They were a wonderful group of guys.

The last group of 4 drop camp hunters were Idaho residents. They did not see anything and said there was no "bull sign". Not sure what they meant. They left early.

Overall, it was a great season. We only had one hunter that was a pain in the ass and along with another hunter that didn't leave much of a tip, I only had to ask two people to never call back. Everyone else was great! If there is anything we could critique, it would be for hunters to bring smaller/less gear in daypacks. I want to thank everyone who worked hard to get in shape. It really does pay off. As of right now, the phone won't stop ringing and we

are booking further in advance than ever before. Whether you hunt with us or someone else, I would recommend booking your hunt sooner than later.