

MIKE'S 2011 BOW HUNT REPORT

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We had another successful bowhunting season, our 6th one in Northern Alberta and my 25th year of guiding bowhunters. I still love to do it after all these years! The best part of the season was the overall number of shot opportunities; the worst part was the low number of kills. Of course the chances were not spread out evenly among all the hunters but here are the stats. Eight mule deer bowhunters had about 16 shots from 15 to 60 yards with most of the shots in the 30+ yd range resulting in just 3 kills.

One of the kills was done by Mark Fischer from Texas on his 4th hunt with us. He took a heavy, wide, old 2 by 3 on the last day of his hunt after several close range stalks and shots that didn't work out. Mark was very happy to get a deer and rebooked another mule deer bowhunt for 2012.



Cameron Hayden from North Dakota muley



George McGoldrick from Illinois

George McGoldrick from Illinois was on his 2nd Mike's Outfitting hunt and he also killed on the last day with a symmetrical 4 by 4 scoring just under 160, it was a thread-the-needle brushy 15 yarder. An excellent redemption shot after missing an 18 yarder earlier in the week. (Sorry George for bringing it up again) The biggest deer was killed by Cameron Hayden from North Dakota with a perfect 50 yard shot. The deer scored 176 gross. Cameron was really hoping to get a 155 plus buck so a deer of this size was a huge thrill for the long time mule deer hunter. Every hunter saw 180+ score bucks and got to do some fun and exciting stalks in the frustratingly too tall crops. If you are thinking of doing a mule deer bowhunt with us it would be good to book soon. We are more than half booked for 2012 and 2013.

The elk and moose combo bowhunts also went really well for shot opportunities and elk bugling action. The 4 hunters heard bugling bulls almost every day despite the record breaking 80+ F heat. We called in about a dozen 5 point and larger bulls in to under 30 yards with 4 bulls coming into less than 10 yds! At one point in the hunt we had 5 bulls bugling their heads off, all within 60 yards. The hunter Curtis Alexander from Saskatchewan said it was one of the most thrilling days of his hunting career. Unfortunately one hunter had to go home mid week and the other one found the hunt too physically tough so he sat in stands for the week. Even he heard bugling most days and almost got a couple of shots. The 2 remaining hunters who were hiking the river valleys had 4 broadside shots from 18 to 30 yards but no kills. The shots came early enough in the week that if we had been successful we could have then devoted a good amount of time to getting a bull moose.



A buck one of the bowhunters missed. Taken by Vince Pizzitola, opening week rifle hunt.



Another one of the missed bucks.
Happy rifle hunter George Pizzitola

Everyone saw bulls but no shots were taken. We are learning our elk and moose bowhunting areas better and better every year and it really is a top quality hunt with virtually no pressure from other bowhunters. It is rare to find elk that freely bugle in daylight hours nowadays. If you are interested in a great elk hunt with a decent chance to take a bull moose then give me a call. We specialize in bowhunts.

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