

## MIKE'S 2013 BOW HUNT REPORT

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**We had a very successful yet tough bowhunting season.** It was successful because we killed some great animals but tough in that we faced some very difficult and often frustrating hunting conditions. Lots of rain all through the spring and summer maxed out antler growth but it also maxed out the crop and all vegetation growth. On the mule deer bowhunts it meant that the deer could often hide in the tall crops and even if you could sneak within 30 yds of them you sometimes couldn't see their bodies to shoot at. The bears had loads of natural feed and didn't need to pound the baits and the elk and moose were scattered all over, able to find food and water anywhere. Then to top it off we had record high temperatures, hitting an unheard of 90 F in September. Many of the animals were in a permanent daytime lockdown in the thick, shady trees. Anyway, enough of the excuses, it was still a very good bow season overall.



Brandon Hiatt and his incredible 206 score muley



Don Roepke and his awesome 182 typical

**The kills on the mule deer bowhunts were really fantastic!** We had **8 mule deer bowhunters who shot 6 bucks** including 4 big ones, 2 were giants. **Todd Garrett** from Arizona pulled off an incredible one arrow kill long shot on a decent 3 by 4 on the last day of his hunt. His brother **Matt** took his first ever bow killed big game animal with a 51 yd shot on a heavy **176 inch** deer. **Don Roepke** killed a squared frame **182 score** muley on a 40 yarder. **Tim Komar** from Wisconsin came on a 2 week mule deer, elk and moose combo hunt and Tim nailed a massive (**6 1/2 inch base**), **29 inch wide**, **196 score** beast of a deer; 30 yd shot. Incredibly Tim's deer was not the biggest one for the year, that title belongs to **Brandon Hiatt** from Colorado with a **206 gross score non typical**. A miss and then a bit of a long shot took down his deer. We didn't get a lot of opportunities this year but we capitalized on the ones we got.

Tim was also our only successful elk hunter out of 4 guys on the **elk /moose combo hunts** taking a **good 6 point bull**. We flesh wounded one other bull and missed another one at 28 yards. Even though our elk population is higher than ever, the bugling action was very slow and the moose were mostly hiding. We did have a couple of long shot chances at moose but no shots or kills. All the summer rain and then incredibly hot September days made for the best crops in 45 years and probably the worst elk bowhunting in that time too, normally we are into multiple bugling bulls every day and moose on a regular basis. Even though all the hunters said they had a great time and that they would love to come back we hope we never have such a tough season again!

**The fall bear hunting was very good** even with the overabundance of feed. We had **4 bear hunters who shot 7 bears**. The 2 biggest ones were a solid Poper bear at **18 ½ inches**, taken by **Mike Connett** from Ohio and a **19 10/16 skull** bear shot by Floridian **Gary Bazemore**. Honourable mention goes out to **Rick Green** from Texas who sat every day from daylight till dark for a mind boggling 97 total hours over 6 ½ days! He cracked a smile and said, "Just great!", every time you asked him how the hunting was going. It was that kind of positive attitude that got us our animals this year and we look forward to many more great bow seasons in the future.

**Feel free to call or email us about our bowhunts. We really do live in a Big Game Bowhunters Paradise!**

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**Tim Komar with his massive 196 non typical**



**Tim Komar with his big 6 point bull**