

WYOMING OUTFITTERS & GUIDES ASSOCIATION 2020 GUIDE OF THE YEAR BRUCE KOPPERUD

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FIRST FOR HUNTERS

BRUCE KOPPERUD, A WYOMING NATIVE and former Marine, developed an interest in the outdoors early on when he learned to hunt and fish with his Dad. The first fish he caught was a sucker, but you would have thought it was a marlin. Every year his Dad would take him on antelope, deer and elk hunts either on foot or horseback. When in the Marines, he would always take his annual leave around hunting season when possible. He has been especially drawn to high mountain game, harvesting his first WY Big Horn ram in 1984



and is still waiting to draw his Desert sheep tag to complete his Grand Slam.

In 2003 and 2004 he was interested in elevating his outdoor knowledge level and took a packing course at Casper College with Todd Jones, an outfitter, as the instructor. Todd then asked Bruce to guide that fall and he eagerly accepted. After that first season, Bruce found out very quickly how much hard work guiding can be and found himself thinking that it was not for him. But within a month of being out of the back country he found himself missing it too much and could not wait until the next

year. And he has not missed a season since.

When Taylor and Hilary Engum took over the camp from Todd, Bruce stayed on to guide for them. In 2017 on a Sheep and Elk hunt, Bruce began to not feel well with an array of symptoms. Upon returning home from guiding that year he was subsequently diagnosed with Stage 3 Pancreatic cancer. Entering his treatment, he made it a goal to guide at least one hunt the following fall. And with the grace of God and the support of Taylor and Hilary, he did. The year after that he was able to guide a normal season and has continued to guide beyond that.

Bruce currently resides at his home outside of Casper and is the President of Comtronix, a company specializing in electronic security and communication systems. 🙌

