

WYOGA HUNTING STORY CONTEST WINNER SEPTEMBER 2019 WYOMING ELK HUNT

Joseph Harner

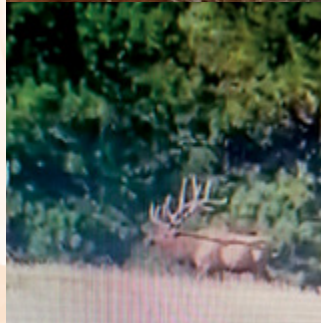
BIG GAME HUNTING

IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN MY DREAM to harvest a monster bull elk so in 2018, I contacted Mike Wakkuri about an elk hunt. It turned out that Unit 7 was a high point draw unit and a certain amount of tags were issued through the random draw. By applying I had a small chance and it would be exceedingly difficult with only 1 point accumulated but I applied anyway. I was shocked to find out I had received a Unit 7 tag! After contacting Mike and sharing the news with him, I decided to go with him and his Elk Mountain Outfitters.

I asked Mike which hunt would give me the best odds of taking a big bull and he suggested a mid to late September bow hunt during the bugle. He added that being 100% effective at 50 yards would be a major asset and would raise my odds significantly! I took his advice and did my part by practicing throughout the year. I arrived in late September and met Myron and Karma Wakkuri and they set me up with Tony English as my guide. It did not take me long to realize that I had a great guide! Over the course of a week, we saw a ton of elk but only had one opportunity and I blew it. I had to crawl through grass for 150 yards and I got grass caught in the cams of my bow

which led me to missing a 325-class bull at 55 yards.

I still had 100% confidence we would get it done and on the last evening, with a 1/2 hour left, Tony called in a world class bull from 700 yards and with one shot, I got him! Tony ran over to me and asked what happened and I replied, "I dropped him" and he said no way! We walked up over the rise and there he laid. Tony realized that I shot him in the neck and could not believe it. I told Tony that the monster bull had 10 yards to go before he would hit my wind and he was quartering hard, so it was my only chance. Knowing at 36 yards, I could hit a quarter, I had no reservation shooting him. That night, we arrived at the lodge and my father, Mike, Myron, Karma, Tony and I, sat on the porch until 11pm admiring my beautiful bull!



I had a great time and hope one day I get to return and share a camp with such great people! 🙏