



WYOMING OUTFITTERS & GUIDES ASSOCIATION

# 2021 HUNTER OF THE YEAR

**Craig Cooper** SPONSORED BY **SCI**  
FIRST FOR HUNTERS



**FIRST AND FOREMOST, LET ME SAY** what an honor it is to be nominated for this award. I am truly grateful for the nomination. Here is part of what first brought me to and continues to bring me back to the great state of Wyoming for hunting.

My name is Craig Cooper, I am 49 years old and the co-owner of a plumbing and heating business in Grand Ledge, Michigan. I grew up in the small town of Mulliken which is a small farming community in central Michigan.

My father was the first person to teach me the love of the great outdoors. From a young age my father taught me the art of hunting. As a young boy we would hunt deer and small game. He taught me how to be patient and wait for the right opportunity along with showing me how to relax and be able to take in all that nature has to offer. My first hunting trip with my father was to the state of Texas to hunt pigs. Over the years I have been fortunate to have hunted in many different states which include Michigan, Wyoming, Nebraska, Illinois and Idaho and the country of Canada. My first trip to Wyoming was in 1990 which was the year I graduated high school. My father wanted me to have an opportunity to hunt Wyoming as he had many times before with one of his best friends, Bob Marosok of Wyoming Wildlife Outfitters. Little did I know that this would be the start of something that I would truly become addicted to. I have had the opportunity to be able to hunt Wyoming numerous times over the years, each year with

my dad as my hunting partner. We were successful not only on that first trip but many more throughout the years. Not only did we have the beautiful trophies at the end of each of the hunting trips but we also had the memories, stories and friends that we met along the way. One of my greatest joys during these trips is watching people come together and create friendships and comraderies that will last a life time. Each year I look forward to planning the next trip and still get excited each time we receive the notification that we got drawn for our licenses.

Unfortunately, in June of 2020 my dad, Spike Cooper, passed away unexpectedly. While he is no longer going to be with me in Wyoming I know that the memories of years past will continue to honor a tradition he started many years ago. In 2021 I will have the great privilege of being able to bring my son, Clayton Cooper, along with me to Wyoming on his first out of state hunting trip. I know that this trip will be one that he will look forward to each year as well. I believe that hunting is not only a way to put food on the table but is also a way to enjoy all that nature has to offer along with creating memories and building friendships that cannot be forgotten.

Again, I am truly grateful for the nomination for this award. Rob has always been and will continue to be a great friend of mine. 🍷

Sincerely, Craig Cooper