

WYOMING OUTFITTERS & GUIDES ASSOCIATION

2024 HUNTER OF THE YEAR WOODY PORTER

BIG GAME HUNTING

GROWING UP IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, my early hunting consisted mainly of dove, quail and rabbits. Later on I expanded to do some deer and pig hunting. Years later an older co-worker invited me to go on an elk hunt he was organizing in southwest Wyoming with an outfitter he had previously used. So it was, that I had my first experience on both an out of state and an outfitted hunt.

The weather was warm and the elk survived, but the beauty of those mountains, seeing moose everyday (no tags, no shooting), and being disconnected from civilization, had quite an effect on me. I also learned some good stuff.

Previously, I thought horses were just things for little people to ride around an oval track at high speed, or to appear in beer commercials. Happily, I discovered that big people could



also sit on them and they would walk up the hill with us on board. When I got all these factors absorbed, I was pretty well hooked. Since that first trip I have hunted Wyoming over 30 times with outfitters and never had a bad experience.

Some draws are certainly harder than others, but if you want to get lucky, you need to apply consistently and get points on years you don't hunt. I'm glad to see the state kept its long time preference point system intact. I feel fortunate to have harvested some really nice big game animals over the years, and some very edible grouse and partridge as well.

I am grateful to have received this recognition and really want to thank the WYOGA, and Pat Fiedor of P Cross Bar Trophy Hunts for nominating me. May you continue to succeed in your efforts to help hunters achieve their goals. 🦌

