

## A NEWS LETTER FROM DAVE HETTINGER OUTFITTING

Many persons who will read this know DHO has been in the outfitting business for a long time , 36 years and counting. Those same people know DHO has operated in several different areas, 8 to be exact, within a tri-state area.

The one and only reason for these moves 7 of 8 times has always been to better ourselves with better hunting. Think about it! You do not leave a place that is hunting well. By the same token Dave has never been one to stick around when the hunting goes south.

This brings up the subject of wolves and wolf reintroduction. To keep it short, in 15 years wolves have decimated Idaho's elk and our hunting was about to crash. Also in our area, Chamberlain Basin, the extensive burns of 1996 and 2000, which made the hunting superb for years, are now a ruination of the country. The past 2 to 3 years the amount of deadfall timber has become overwhelming. Keeping trails open or just hunting through the country can prove to be near impossible.

The good news is DHO has moved to Wyoming's Teton Wilderness, south and southeast of Yellowstone. Unlike the northern Yellowstone elk herd which has been greatly affected by wolf predation, the southeast elk numbers are doing quite well. As an example elk numbers on a major winter range near Dubois, Wyoming are increasing annually. In Dave's 35 plus years in the business Wyoming has always had more game on its public lands compared to Montana or Idaho. For wilderness outfitting and hunting northwest Wyoming remains the best choice out there.

2011 was DHO's first season in Wyoming and was a good test for the new area. Weather was against us for the entire season except one hunt, October 7-14. We had snow plus the elk were doing some bugling. That's the best of both worlds. 70 plus year old Charlie Gatt, New Jersey on his first elk hunt took a nice bull the second morning. In all 3 hunters took 3 bulls and 1 buck.

On the first two hunts, September 19-26 and September 28-October 5<sup>th</sup>, temperatures were extremely warm to hot with blue skies and sunshine. Tough, Tough hunting! On the latter two hunts, October 16-23 and October 25-31 temperatures were cool to cold, but again sunny clear skies and NO snow.

So the final numbers at seasons end were 10 bulls and 4 bucks for 21 hunters. Not bragging figures in Wyoming, but would be considered good to excellent in Idaho even during former years when elk numbers were good. Looking into the future I predict a 75%-80% harvest on bulls during seasons with more favorable weather.

During years gone by in both Montana and Idaho one of our specialties was Fair Chase "Spot & Stalk" spring bear hunts. Once again we have the right kind of terrain to offer these spring hunts with a high degree of success. It's fun, challenging and you get the most bang for your buck when comparing guided big game hunts. Some of our past clients have developed a love affair with Springtime in the Rockies.

In writing this my mind keeps drifting toward describing the terrain of the Teton Wilderness. I fear if I start it will be so lengthy interested persons will still be reading into the second day. So I will just simply state the terrain and scenery of the east half of this wilderness area is second to none. If you doubt me come see for yourself on a progressive summer camping horse tour.

Best Regards,

Dave and Daronda