

March Newsletter

Secondary Big Game Draw

The secondary big game draw has replaced the leftover draw. Hunters who don't draw a license in the primary draw should be aware they still have the opportunity to draw a license in the secondary big game draw. Most elk, deer, pronghorn and bear licenses not issued through the primary draw will now be made available in a secondary draw that is open to anyone, whether they applied for the primary draw or not. The new system means increased opportunity. The old leftover draw only offered deer and elk licenses and was only available to customers who participated in the primary draw. The secondary draw offers two more species: bear and pronghorn licenses in addition to deer and elk licenses, and is open to all customers whether they applied in the primary draw or not. The new system provides preference for youth hunters. Youth hunters have 100% preference in the secondary draw.

What does this mean? The secondary draw processes all youth application choices prior to processing adult choices. A hunt could be completely drawn by youth before the adult application stage of the draw.



J&D OUTFITTERS

QUALITY BIG GAME HUNTS

EASTERN PLAINS EXPANDS OPERATIONS



FIRST and FOREMOST, we would like to thank all of you that were able to make it into our camps in 2023, and a very special thank you to our entire staff for their hard work, dedication and commitment. We were very fortunate to harvest some great trophies. As most you know, we are constantly pursuing opportunities to benefit our companies and our clients. We have been working for several years on the acquisition of a very well-known outfitter on the eastern plains of Colorado. There are very few outfitters that I would come in and hunt behind due to our strict game management principles and goals to harvest mature trophy mule deer and pronghorn bucks. Our new eastern plains operation, known as Eastern Plains 2, will offer just that. This opportunity will allow us to offer some of the best and unique ground on the eastern plains of Colorado for quality archery, rifle and muzzleloader hunts for deer and pronghorn.



Our Dedication To YOU

At J&D Outfitters and Guide Service, Inc and Cross Mountain Outfitters, LLC, we require very high standards, loyalty, honesty, respect, and strong work ethics from our guides and staff. We are especially proud of the teamwork and support between our guides and staff for the past 25 years in providing quality hunting experiences for our clients. Teamwork is our backbone, and we will continue to uphold our core values and strive to offer our clients the best service, quality and value they deserve.



Kansas Update

In 2024, all non-resident turkey licenses are draw only. Our camp continues to produce great results for those fortunate enough to draw a license.

Moon Ranch now Ranching For Wildlife

We are fortunate to add our Moon Ranch to the Ranching for Wildlife program. This addition, as some of you may know, will allow a flexible hunt schedule allowing rifle hunts in September during the rut. We will conduct limited numbers of hunts due to the limited numbers of licenses available. Our plans for 2024 are to conduct six 5-day elk hunts with a minimum of a week break between each hunt. This method should allow our elk to rest in between the hunts and move freely on and off the ranch with no hunting pressure. NOTE: We have four licenses left for 2024 to be used November 11 - 15. Contact for details.



FEATURED RECIPE

Breaded Pheasant Breast

Ingredients:

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| 4 pheasant breasts | 2 cups italian bread crumbs |
| 2 eggs | 2 cloves minced garlic |
| 1 tsp thyme | 1 tbsp butter |
| 1 tsp rosemary | Salt & Pepper to taste |

Preparation:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Combine herbs and bread crumbs.
3. Double bread the pheasant breasts (egg, bread crumbs, egg, bread crumbs). Add salt & pepper to taste.
4. Brown on each side in butter and minced garlic.
5. Bake at 350 degrees for 20-30 minutes.
6. Serve over rice or noodles.
7. You can also top with cheese sauce & jalapenos, if desired.

ELK FUN FACT:

Weighing in at up to 700 pounds, the North American elk stands as one of the biggest deer species on earth, but don't think that just because an elk is large that it's slow. A mature bull can run as fast as 40 miles per hour – they've even been able to outrun horses. And, that's not all; elk can jump eight feet vertically.



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CROSS MOUNTAIN OUTFITTERS

NORTH MOUNTAIN RANCH



Since adding our North Mountain Ranch to our choices of camps to choose from, we have had great success on our archery and rifle elk hunts. We continue to improve wildlife habitat, implement weed control measures and repair and replace boundary fencing. Our North Mountain location is a highly sought after location with great facilities and great numbers of wildlife. The ranch is located in Game Management Unit 70 in SW Colorado and requires draw licenses for first rifle and archery elk licenses. We normally run pretty close to 100% success on the draw results, but this ranch does book up years in advance. In 2023, we were honored to host a successful elk hunt for two youth hunters through the Hunt of a Lifetime Organization.



"Ricky Bobby"

After many years hunting with us on the eastern plains of Colorado, code name "Ricky Bobby," broke the ice on a beautiful non-typical mulie breaking the coveted 200" mark. Ricky has been fortunate to harvest some great deer over the



years, but his ultimate goal was to break that magical 200" mark. We left early on the last morning of the hunt in pursuit of a buck we had found earlier in the week that we nicknamed "V Buck." 2023 was an unusual year for weeds on the eastern plains due to the good amount of moisture, which inevitably produced some very tall weeds in the creeks and some of our open areas. Not long after legal shooting light, we spotted a buck in the dead sunflowers. We glassed the buck for quite some time trying to figure out if that was stickers coming off both sides of his antlers or just weeds. After what seemed like forever, the buck finally turned his head just enough for us to make a decision, and Ricky Bobby made an excellent shot on a trophy of a lifetime. As we approached the buck, he continued to grow, and we were absolutely stunned once touching all the character he did have. Congratulations Ricky on a buck of a lifetime. See you in October.



CROSS MOUNTAIN OUTFITTERS

FOUR MILE RANCH

Winter Kill



Despite the winter kill challenges of 2022-2023 in our NW camps, we still managed to harvest some good trophies. The winter kill proved to be a lot more than any of us expected. The severity and duration of the historic winter was in the northwest corner of the state from Rangely to Steamboat Springs and to the Wyoming state line, which is referred to as the severe winter zone. In this area, the winter, at lower elevations where mule deer, elk, and pronghorn inhabit, was the worst in at least 70 years because of deep, long-lasting low elevation snow-pack. This includes surpassing the historic 1983-1984 winter in the severe winter zone. Snow storms began at the end of October and persisted relentlessly until April. In an area known for some of the largest elk herds in the nation, severe winter conditions resulted in high elk calf and above-average cow mortality. Survival rates are the lowest CPW has ever documented.