

# DOUBLE DIAMOND WILDERNESS TRAILS

## GUIDING & OUTFITTING

### 2008 Hunt Report

**For the ultimate hunting experience call: (403) 843-4049**

I believe that the weather of 2008 was the worst I have ever had to deal with in 17 years of outfitting. These obstacles created a very interesting hunting season and were proof that hard work and determination can swing things in your favor. **What a great Year!**

#### Wolf Hunts

Wolf hunts were run in February and things started looking very good with plenty of snow and cold weather. We had 6 bait sites out with wolves actively using 4 of them on a regular basis. Kevin and Willard Swanke (ND.) returned and toughed it out in the ground blinds to harvest a beautiful grey wolf and miss another one. John Jones and Lee Moore (MT) were our next group and the boys sat quiet, spent long hours in the blinds and had wolves close by on numerous occasions but did not lay eyes on one of the timber ghosts. The weather really began to change mid way through this hunt for the worse, so we cancelled our last hunt due to no snow and warm temperatures. We pushed the cancelled hunters to 2009 and hope for snow and cold.



#### Spring Bear Hunts

The spring bear hunts were again a huge success! We showed up to start baiting with up to 4 foot of snow in certain areas making it difficult to bait to say the least. However the weather turned around and we had no snow or rain throughout the whole season. This was awesome and the bears were out in full force. 15 hunters shot 19 bears wounding 4, and we saw over 300 bears in 4 weeks. Of the 15 bears shot, we averaged a whopping 6'10" with 9 of the 15 easily making the record book and 3 others just missing the 18" minimum. The largest bear of the year was harvested by Steve Hitchens of Newark Ohio, and it went 7' 9", weighed over 500lbs. and scored 20 2/8" on the skull. Congrats Steve. Ray Miley (FL) was probably the uckiest hunter of the year scoring with 2 huge bears on the same evening. Both bears were over 7' and were 19" plus on the skull. The bonus in this deal was, the second bear was a blonde - cinnamon. Great weather, crew, and clients made this a fantastic season.



#### NWT Guiding Dall Sheep and Caribou

I spent the summer in the NWT guiding for Dall sheep and caribou. The weather was brutal with only 5 days of sunshine in 2 months. There is nothing like being in a 2 man tent in extended extreme weather conditions. However I managed to pull out 3 rams for 4 hunters and maintain some sanity. The first hunter wrecked his knee and had to go home on day two which was a huge disappointment to him and me. However, after that the big boys started to fall. Gary Tepperman of (NY) shot his first sheep scoring 164" and 41"x 41" in length and also added a 413" caribou. Judd (MN) scored with a huge ram that was 43"x35" and still scored 165". Last but not least was Archery hunter Dave Van Belleghem(AB) who stuck a 37" ram at 36 yards on day 6 of his hunt. Great job boys!



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#### Whitetail/Mule Deer Archery Hunts

Returning from the NWT in late August it was time to get ready for the whitetail/mule deer archery hunts. Extremely warm weather made for difficult patterning of these wily creatures but when it was time to hunt, the stands were hung and we were ready to get down to it. Sean Jeromin (NY) hunted hard and on the last day of his hunt stuck a beauty 11 point that put him into the P&Y club. Kelly Beal (TX) had the whitetail curse but managed to stick a beautiful mule deer and his first swamp donkey (Moose). Kelly's partner, Steve Sherrill (TX) saw the whitetail he has been waiting for, a heavy 6x5, but at 16 yards the buck got nervous, and while he was leaving, Steve hit him to far forward and we were unable to recover the buck. Maybe next time Steve. Todd Yerks (CT) did not see his dream buck from the stand, but on the way to his stand and there was no mistaking he was the big one. However there was no shot opportunity but I think we will see Todd back in 2009.



**Archery hunt #2** started in late October with repeat hunters Carl and Jeremy

Ackerman (FL) and new hunters Eric Keuling (TX) and Scott Novak (MO). Right out of the starting gate Scott had a 7x7 at 15 yards and hit him too far back. We looked for this buck throughout the remainder of the hunt but we could not locate him. Eric videoed a huge deer on day two but elected to pass on him waiting for a bigger buck, he was in Alberta after all! Once the crew and other hunters saw the video, we all agreed that Eric had made a huge mistake. Seven days later and with much patience Eric stuck that deer at 35 yards. Scoring 160" P&Y, Eric was ecstatic to say the least. Carl Ackerman was up to his old tricks and despite 90KM an hour winds he elected to get in a tree stand while everyone else was at camp. Well we got the call shortly before dark that Carl was done, and we recovered the 6x5 buck at 150 yards. We now had another P&Y buck hanging in the garage. Carl's son Jeremy toughed it out to the bitter end and on the last morning harvested a beautiful 8 point just missing P&Y. Congrats boys, you all did a fantastic job.



#### Whitetail Rifle Hunts

The 2008 rifle hunts were probably the toughest weather conditions I have ever had to deal with. Our water courses did not even freeze over until late November. Despite a number of last minute cancellations we managed to fill them and we started to knock over some deer. Our first hunt consisted of hunters Rich Gribble (ID), repeat hunter John Johnson (MI), Steven Hitchens (OH), and Lance Norman (TX). Rich stuck it out in the ground blinds and saw a number of great deer. He took some great pics of deer that most hunters would die for but held out for that true Alberta monster. Though he saw a couple deer he would have shot given the opportunity he went home empty handed. We will be seeing Rich again in 2010. Lance missed a true monster eight point that would have scored in the mid to high 160" class and received a first class scope kiss for his efforts. When the bleeding stopped he shot a 7 ½ year old deer that he mistook for the big boy but is determined to try again in the near future. Steve Hitchens had a very quick hunt and on day two shot a 6 ½ year old buck out of a tree stand with a 23" inside spread. It was the largest bodied deer he had ever seen. John Johnson was back and before we had started the hunt and sighted in his gun, he missed a huge eight point with a 23" spread. The next day he closed the deal on a heavy eight point with a split G-1. He was ecstatic and decided to spend the remainder of his hunt looking for a big mule deer. On day one of the mule deer hunt we passed on a mid 160" deer but he received the call everyone dreads and had to return home for the passing of his uncle.



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**Whitetail Rifle hunt #2** started with more of the same warm weather and David Wittendorfer (OK), Jim Markle (MT), Trevor Shulist (BC), and Dr. Tom Lahmann (FL) who were more than ready to pursue the Alberta legends. Jim watched 3 mature bucks for numerous days but they would not step across the fence and give him a shot on good land. He stayed with them and finally shot a great looking deer from his perch on a log pile right at dusk. It was not the deer he had been watching but was very pleased with his first ever whitetail buck. Tom Lahmann did not take long to put one in the dirt when a huge bodied, heavy horned buck stepped into his sights while chasing a doe across the cutline. Tom made no mistakes and pounded him in his tracks. This was Tom's best deer to date with DDWT after hunting here archery and rifle for the past few years. David Wittendorfer ended up here after his wife Linda decided to shop around for a birthday present. She chose to put David with DDWT and he shot a great heavy horned eight point late in the hunt. We look forward to David hunting with us again in 2010. Trevor Shulist shot a huge ten point on the last day of the season as it eased across a cutline. It was by far his best deer to date and just missed the 160" mark as a clean 10 point. Great job gentlemen and we look forward to hunting with you all again in the near future.



### Coyote Hunts

Last but not least for 2008 was a father son team from Wisconsin looking to blaze down some of our beautiful northern coyotes. Mike and Bob Leibfried hunted with us for 4 days in early December and called in numerous coyotes. The boys did a great job shooting and knocked down 10 dogs and only missed four, which I thought was fantastic shooting. They will be back in 09 and we truly look forward to gunning down a few more yote dogs.



**Shoot straight and often, and remember that when there is lead in the air there is hope.**

### Happy Hunting

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